

What's new
for the
home office
p13

WORLD NEWS

Fixed penalty
fines planned
for speeding

Fixed penalties for motoring offences are to be extended to speeding by April 1986, said the Home Office.

The system now applies to parking offences but will also take in not wearing of seat belts and failing to obey traffic signals. Drivers will still be able to opt for a court hearing.

Oil companies reacted quickly to Thursday's petrol price cut of 4p a gallon by Esso. Yesterday, all the major companies matched the reduction. Page 3

Lebanon doubts

The Reagan administration is facing growing disillusionment in Congress over its Lebanon policy. Back Page: Britons evacuated from Beirut, Page 2

Children escape

Twelve children, aged five, escaped injury when their classroom was hit by a terrorist rocket aimed at an Army vehicle, in west Belfast.

Six die in blaze

Five brothers and sisters and their step-father died when fire swept through their home in Tonypandy, South Wales. The only survivors were the children's mother and a boy, 10.

Newspaper hits back

Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe hit back at those who attacked the "luxurious" life-style of Britain's diplomats abroad. He said they were important in boosting British exports by £1bn a year.

Holiday warning

Nearly 4,000 Commons workers have been told to get official permission before booking holidays in communist countries. They were warned "certain hazards still attend such travel."

Walessa visit

Lech Walessa, former leader of banned Polish trade union Solidarnosc, said he will visit Britain in July, to receive an honorary degree if the Polish government guarantees that he will be allowed to return home.

Pay cut sought

The 3,000 school meals service staff in Herefordshire are to be told by the county council to accept either a 22 per cent pay cut or be made redundant.

Train crash kills 43

At least 43 passengers were killed when two trains crashed at Bahadurgarh, near Delhi, India.

Consulate bombed

A bomb caused some damage to the Turkish consulate in Cologne, West Germany. A bomb exploded outside a bank in the Spanish Basque town of Renteria, as youths clashed with police.

Icelandic first

Iceland's first bank raid, carried out when staff were on duty, took place in Reykjavik when a masked man snatched about £350.

Expensive habit

More than 400 South Korean have been fined £200 for smoking or selling foreign cigarettes during a campaign to promote home-produced goods. Page 23

MARKETS

DOLLAR

New York luncheon
DM 2.7405
FFr 8.4355
SwFr 2.23825
Y234.55
London:
DM 2.7435 (2.733)
FFr 8.4041
SwFr 2.237 (2.219)
£1.24 65 (23.75)
Trade weighted 130.2 (129.8)
Tokyo close Y234.35

U.S. LUNCHTIME RATES

Fed Funds 9.5%
3-month Treasury Bills:
9.04%
Long Bond: 100 1/2
yield: 11.9
GOLD
New York: Comex Feb latest
\$378.5
London: \$378.5 (\$383.5)

Chief price changes yesterday, Back Page

BUSINESS SUMMARY
Overseas
buying
boosts TI

TI GROUP: heavy overseas buying yesterday pushed the leading engineering company's share price up 14p to 218p, the highest since 1982. Stockbrokers calculated that an overseas buyer has bought at least 5 per cent—enough to require it to disclose its holding next week. Back Page

EQUITIES were little changed but improved late, with the FT Industrial Ordinary index closing at the day's high of 805.4, up 4.1. This made a fall

of 27 on the week, abruptly reversing a four-month advance taking the index to record levels, and reflecting Wall Street weakness. Page 24

ANGLO-FRENCH £452m (£319m) contract to expand a Thai oil refinery appears to have been saved, after two days of talks between the US government and French Foreign Trade Minister Edith Cresson. Davy McKee of Britain is a principal contractor.

SAUDI Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani backed Nigeria's case for an oil production quota above the 1.8m b/d fixed by Opec. Back Page

JAPAN decided not to block Citicorp's plan to buy part of Vickers da Costa, the London stockbroker, with one of the few licences granted to foreigners to do securities business in Tokyo. Back Page

LLOYD'S underwriters have been asked to disclose the reinsurance arrangements they have made with offshore companies, following a wave of scandals in the market. Page 3

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The Soviet leader held office for only 15 months. FT writers look at his life and assess world reaction to his death

Andropov, the man who became leader too late

YURI VLADIMIROVICH ANDROPOV was already suffering from one great handicap when he became fifth leader of the Soviet Union in November 1982 — his age. At 68 he was the oldest man ever to take over power and it was known that he suffered periodically from a kidney disorder and related blood disease. The strain of high office weakened him further and the question over his longevity undermined his authority before it had even been fully established.

In many ways this was deeply ironic because he became leader only after skilfully neutralising what hitherto had been seen as a much more important disqualification: his 15-year stint as head of the KGB. But Mr Andropov was not a policeman, still less a killer, in the earlier Stalinist tradition. He was a politician, and a subtle intelligence officer at that. He became head of the KGB in 1957 because the cautious collective leadership of the early Brezhnev years wanted an efficient security apparatus, but under careful party control. To underline his political status, Mr Andropov was appointed as a non-voting candidate member of the Politburo and six years later became a full member.

The KGB proved to be the ultimate stepping stone to power. But Mr Andropov had already accumulated much useful prior experience during his steady rise from humble origins. He was born the son of a minor railway official in June 1914 at the village of Nagutskaya in the Stavropol region of Southern Russia. After starting work at 16 as a boatman on the Volga, he became a telegraph operator and cinema projectionist before graduating from a technical institute in 1936 as a shipbuilder. Soon

after starting his first serious job at the Volodarski shipyards at Rybinsk on the Volga, however, he became the yard's Komsomol (Young Communist) organiser and four years later at 26 he became head of the Komsomol in the Yaroslavl region.

Against the background of Stalin's purges and gathering war clouds he was then promoted to head the Komsomol organisation in Karelia during the "winter war", against Finland and stayed on until 1944. In 1947 after three years as party second secretary at the industrial town of Petrozavodsk near Leningrad he came back to Karelia as second party secretary whilst the former Finnish territory was being "Sovietised". During this formative period he attracted the attention of two powerful men — Mikhail Suslov and Otto Kuusinen, Stalin's Finnish consul in Karelia.

But it was as Soviet Ambassador to Hungary during the Budapest uprising in 1956 that Mr Andropov forged his reputation for good judgment, ruthlessness and ability. After helping to crush the revolt and install Janos Kadar as the new party chief he returned to a key position in Moscow (in 1957) as central committee secretary in charge of Eastern Europe.

This mixture of party experience and diplomacy proved useful in 1968 when the Prague Spring presented the first major challenge to the Soviet leadership, only one year after he took control of the KGB. Mr Andropov is believed to have argued for a political rather than military solution, but was overruled. The same mistake was not made 12 years later when similar, but even more serious problems arose with the

emergence of the Solidarity trade union in Poland.

Enormous political pressure was placed on the Polish authorities to do their own dirty work and in December 1981 the Polish military stepped in with martial law. This did not solve the problem, or dissipate Soviet concern for the future. But it bought time with which to try to work out a new relationship within the Warsaw Pact as a whole and make changes which would head off similar developments elsewhere.

In a way, the emergence of Solidarity in Poland reinforced Soviet perceptions about the correctness of their own policy towards dissidence and intellectual freedom in the Soviet Union. As head of the KGB, Mr Andropov waged a persistent struggle which broke the back of the dissident movement by exiling its best known and most intellectually powerful members, imprisoning others, coaxing some and consigning others to psychiatric hospitals. At the same time over 250,000 Jews and other minorities were allowed to leave.

Mr Andropov was thus instrumental in preventing detente in international relations blossoming into uncontrollable demands for greater intellectual, political and social liberties at home. The Soviet people paid the price in cultural atrophy, economic stagnation, a widespread sense of disillusion and a continuing increase in social problems like divorce, mental illness and alcoholism.

Ironically, these were some of the problems which Mr Andropov had the sensitivity to try to tackle once he achieved power. His tenure at the KGB and access to files and information helped him the best informed man in the Soviet



Andropov . . . handicapped by age

Union. It showed him, inter alia, the degree of corruption and cynicism prevailing among many members of the Soviet elite and the degree of inefficiency, incompetence, idleness and theft which impermeated the economy.

It was hardly surprising, therefore, that he started his

genuine attempt to squeeze higher productivity out of an economy hamstrung by shortages despite high investment.

Mr Andropov was well aware of his age handicap. He knew that, unlike his predecessors, he did not have a decade to spend consolidating his power and that one of his main functions was to promote younger, more proficient men and give them the experience necessary to form the next generation of leaders.

In June 1983 he became President of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet and so acquired in seven months that "triple crown" of party boss, head of state and commander in chief which took Mr Brezhnev 13 years to achieve.

Ironically, two months later he disappeared from public view. For the last six months of his life he exercised a form of proxy authority through "interviews with Pravda" and policy statements signed in his name. These were probably the product of a small "inner cabinet" and his own personal contribution probably varied according to the state of his health and consciousness.

Throughout this period, however, the power of what can be termed "the Andropov faction" grew as ageing ministers and Brezhnev appointees throughout the party structure were steadily replaced by younger, better educated men loyal to Mr Andropov and the key power brokers like Dmitri Ustinov, the Defence Minister and Andrei Gromyko, the veteran Foreign Minister.

These were the men who supported his climb to power and will probably supervise the succession. Revitalising the economy and giving a new sense of direction to Soviet foreign policy were Mr Andropov's top priorities.

When this failed and deployment of (U.S.) cruise and Pershing missiles in Western Europe began, the Soviet Union had to tacitly admit a major policy setback. Soviet frustration was underlined by walking out of the intermediate nuclear force (INF) negotiations in Geneva in November and refusing to name a resumption date for the strategic arms (Start) talks.

Two months later however a five-hour tête-à-tête between Mr Gromyko and Mr George Shultz, U.S. Secretary of State, followed by lengthy bi-lateral talks with eight other Nato foreign ministers at the Stockholm disarmament conference signalled a breaking of diplomatic ice. Whether this leads to a thaw now depends on Mr Andropov's successors.

The main thrust of Mr Andropov's foreign policy was inevitably dictated by awareness of Soviet weaknesses, coupled with apprehension over the U.S. military build-up and fear mixed with contempt for President Reagan's "Empire of evil". Jokes from across the Atlantic. First, he tried hard with a series of carefully designed and timed "peace proposals" to encourage Western peace movements to persuade their governments to abandon Nato plans for cruise and Pershing missiles.

In the short time at his disposal Mr Andropov did sweep away some of the cobwebs and start to move the Soviet Union in a more modern direction. The younger men who follow him will probably not differ much in their analysis of what is needed. But they lack the experience which he brought to the job because the same paralysis which blocked Mr Andropov for so many years blighted their careers, too.

Little hope of improved relations with China

By Mark Baker in Peking
THE DEATH of Yuri Andropov comes at a time when relations between China and the Soviet Union are virtually statemated — with little prospect of a change in the Soviet leadership.

For more than 20 years, the world's two biggest Communist powers have held each other at arm's length after falling out over ideology. It was the previous Soviet leader, Mr Leonid Brezhnev, who initiated moves to bring them back to the negotiating table.

Despite three rounds of intensive consultations, relations have barely improved. Trade has been expanding, there have been symbolic exchanges of students, technicians and cultural delegations, and some middle-ranking bureaucrats have been swapping visits. But deep-rooted political differences remain.

China has spelled out three issues as blocking a return to normal relations — the bankrolling by the Soviet Union of the Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and the presence of more than 120,000 troops near China's northern border.

The Chinese has not a high price on rapprochement, but the Soviet Union under Mr Andropov, while anxious to win a closer relationship with Peking, does not appear to have made any significant concessions.

While contacts with the Soviet Union proved relatively fruitful, China has been progressively discovering the advantages of being courted by the U.S.

China has strong reasons for maintaining its ostensible neutrality: to keep a bargaining lever on both Moscow and Washington, to avoid being drawn under the umbrella of either power, and to preserve its self-appointed status as the leader of the Third World.

But the recent successful visit to the U.S. by Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese President, and the plans for President Reagan to visit China in April have been widely interpreted as a clear tilt in Chinese sympathies towards the U.S.

Two recent events have suggested that China may, however, be attempting to shift the pendulum of its foreign policy back towards the Soviet Union and a more clearly neutral position.

It was revealed early this week that the Chinese have invited Mr Ivan Arkhipov, First Vice-Chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, to visit China soon after Mr Reagan's April visit. Only yesterday, China and the USSR signed a protocol in Peking to increase their annual barter trade quota by 50 per cent to \$1.2bn (£837m) this year.

Both events provide modest openings on which the new Soviet régime might build. But the prospects for a further warming in relations must be weighed against China's determined insistence on the "three obstacles" to normalisation.

China had still made no formal comment on Mr Andropov's death by late last night. Xinhua, the official Chinese news agency, reported the death without comment.

Zhao was informed of the news while attending a banquet hosted by Mr Robert Hawke, the Australian Prime Minister, who is visiting Peking.

Wholesale prices in U.S. rise

By Stewart Fleming in Washington
WHOLESALE prices in the U.S. rose 0.6 per cent in January, a much bigger jump than economists had been expecting and one which will be interpreted as a worrying sign that inflationary pressures may be building up.

The index rose only 0.6 per cent in the whole of last year, the best wholesale price performance since 1984. The Labour Department said last month's increase reflected sharp rises in food prices, particularly fresh produce which was damaged by the winter weather.

The department said the increase in producer prices would have been significantly higher, were it not for the fact that the data collection system did not include all the sharp rises in heating oil prices which came into effect last month.

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Paris wants to sustain progress

By David Houze in Paris

The French Government hopes the recent improvement in relations with the Soviet Union will be sustained under the new Russian leadership.

The improvement has been marked by the visit to France 10 days ago of Mr Ivan Arkhipov, Soviet First Deputy Prime Minister, and recent Tass and Pravda commentaries that have taken a more conciliatory view of President François Mitterrand's Administration.

Pravda even went as far as to detect "positive signs of progress" in Franco-Soviet relations after long condemning President Mitterrand for supporting the deployment of U.S. missiles in Europe and refusing to have French nuclear weapons included in the General talks on medium-range missiles.

The French wish to renew the dialogue with the Soviet Union was made clear by President Mitterrand last year and repeated on his subsequent visit to Yugoslavia.

As President of the European Council of Ministers, he also believes that France is well placed to play a role of spokesman for Europe in attempting to ease tensions between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

In the immediate future, France's main concern is to win Soviet support for its proposal to replace the multinational force in Beirut by a United Nations contingent.

It was unknown yesterday whether President Mitterrand would attend Mr Andropov's funeral.



Reagan . . . in recent weeks he has gone out of his way to appear more conciliatory toward Moscow

Reagan given chance to start U.S.-Soviet thaw

BY REGINALD DALE, U.S. EDITOR IN WASHINGTON

THE DEATH of Mr Yuri Andropov gives President Ronald Reagan an opportunity to make a new start in trying to unfreeze U.S.-Soviet relations if he chooses to do so and there are some signs he may.

In an election year, Mr Reagan is well aware that he is vulnerable domestically to the charge that he has contributed to bringing superpower relations to one of their lowest points ever. The opinion polls continue to show that many Americans believe he has heightened the risk of nuclear war and failed to tackle the arms race through serious efforts to reach arms control agreements.

A thaw with Moscow was already on the cards last summer, when the Administration seemed to think that a Reagan-Andropov summit meeting might conceivably be

arranged for some time this year — suitably in advance of the November U.S. elections.

But tentative moves towards an accommodation were scuppered by September's shooting down of the South Korean airliner, which Mr Reagan chose to treat as a major East-West incident, and by the subsequent hostile exchanges over the start to the Nato deployment of U.S. cruise and Pershing II missiles in Western Europe.

More recently Washington's suspicions of Moscow have only been enhanced by what it sees as the aggressive behaviour in the Middle East of Syria — a country that the Reagan Administration has denounced as a Soviet surrogate intent on sabotaging U.S. interests in the region.

Mr Reagan, however, has consistently stuck to two themes in his statement on relations with

the Soviet Union. These are that he is ready for a summit meeting with the Soviet leadership, provided that it is "well prepared" and can achieve constructive results, and that he believes the Soviet people want peace, even if the Kremlin does not.

Mr Andropov's drawn-out illness has also for many months been seen in Washington as making a Reagan-Andropov summit unlikely. In any case, to U.S. Kremlinologists, Moscow has seemed to be waiting to assess the chances of Mr Reagan's re-election before making a serious move.

Mr Reagan, however, has increasingly wanted to make the point that it is not necessarily his fault if relations are so bad — a view that a recent opinion poll suggested was shared by a fair number of Americans.

Last month, Mr Reagan called

for a new, more co-operative chapter to be opened in dealings between Washington and Moscow. And while he has been catering heavily to right-wingers and American anti-Communists in his election rhetoric over the past 10 days, he has put an end to more direct inflammatory attacks on the Soviet Union along the lines of his "evil empire" speech of last May.

It is most unlikely that Mr Reagan's view of the Soviet Union has substantially changed. He still sees the world in terms of the clash between freedom and totalitarianism, as he made abundantly clear in a deeply conservative speech at his old college in Eureka, Illinois, earlier this week.

But the "peace" theme has recently been more evident as he tried to outflank Democratic opponents, who are still trying to cast him as a warmonger.

He did not decide to follow up the death of Mr Andropov's predecessor, Mr Leonid Brezhnev, with a major new opening at the end of 1982. This time, however, he may find the role of the magnanimous world statesman more tempting.

This concern was underlined by the swift announcement that Chancellor Helmut Kohl would attend the funeral ceremonies in Moscow. Flags flew at half mast on Government buildings here yesterday.

In a telegram to Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Soviet Premier, Herr Kohl spoke of his "genuine sympathy at the great loss suffered by the Soviet people." The Chancellor was the last high-ranking Western leader to see Mr Andropov.

Both events provide modest openings on which the new Soviet régime might build. But the prospects for a further warming in relations must be weighed against China's determined insistence on the "three obstacles" to normalisation.

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East Europe allies anxious over succession

BY DAVID BUCHAN, EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

General Secretary has the extended experience of Eastern Europe that Mr Andropov acquired from his ambassadorial post in Budapest in the late 1950s and from his post of central committee secretary for relations with allied communist parties in the early 1960s.

Only with Stalin's death in 1953 was there a widespread changing of the guard in Eastern Europe. But if the Soviet power-brokers were now to choose a markedly younger man, this would undermine the age of East European leaders.

The major disappointment for Eastern Europe is that Mr Andropov did not last long enough to reverse decisively what Mr Andropov first had to get his own economic house in

order before turning to their common trading problems in Comecon. But the Andropov era came and went without Soviet bloc leaders holding their long-rumoured and much-prepared Comecon summit.

The Soviet allies probably most anxious about the succession are Poland and Hungary. General Jaruzelski needs convincing positive Kremlin backing if his policies, unpopular with conservatives and moderates alike, are not to founder completely. Hungary will

be looking to see whether the new man in the Kremlin has any obstacles to put in the way of its increasingly independent-minded economic policies.

Where East Europeans most hoped Mr Andropov would make progress was with the ailing Soviet economy. They realised that Mr Andropov first had to get his own economic house in

order before turning to their common trading problems in Comecon. But the Andropov era came and went without Soviet bloc leaders holding their long-rumoured and much-prepared Comecon summit.

The speed at which the evacuation was organised prevented a number of U.S. citizens finding out about the departure plans. It is therefore expected the helicopters will return today to pick up more U.S. citizens.

Diplomats in Beirut feel the departure of so many foreigners from the Lebanese capital is largely a token of domestic concern about their safety rather than an indication that heavy shelling will be resumed.

The Lebanese in West Beirut, however, fear the evacuation may herald a more violent turn

in the fighting.

The Israeli bombing raid on the town of Bantoun, east of Beirut, is in retaliation for three Katyusha rockets which guerrillas fired into northern Israel on Thursday.

James Buxton in Rome writes: The major part of a squadron of seven Italian warships, led by the cruiser Vittorio Veneto, is expected to arrive in Lebanese waters later today to provide extra cover for the 1,300 Italian troops when they are eventually pulled out of Beirut.

Today the amphibious transport ship Caio de Cespedes of the Italian Navy is due to evacuate 500 civilians from Beirut. About half of them are Italian and the rest are German, Cypriot and Spanish. They will be taken from both West Beirut and from the Christian-held port of Jounieh to Cyprus.

Two Italian car ferries are expected to reach Lebanese waters by the middle of next week and will be ready to evacuate Italian troops as soon as the government gives the go-ahead. Italy plans to make a "gradual withdrawal" of its forces.



July 1983

Andrew Fisher looks at the investment in North Sea production spending that underpins interest in Scott Lithgow takeover

Companies vie for a stake in offshore construction bonanza

THE FAILURE of Scott Lithgow, the Clydeside yard of British Shipbuilders, to make a success of the gruelling offshore construction market has come just as spending in the North Sea is about to take off.

This explains the keen interest shown by the companies now waiting impatiently to see if they can take over the ailing yard.

British waits to see if there is any chance of salvaging its one-off completed rig lying unassisted in the Scottish yard. It was the cancellation of this much delayed £28m order which put a question mark over the yard's future.

British is one of the companies which will invest heavily in the North Sea. The UK and Norway are expected to spend \$2bn (£5.6bn) or more a year

for the next 15 years. For companies such as Gotaverken Arendal in Sweden, which has moved successfully into offshore building and would like to work with the winning bidder for Scott Lithgow, such a scale of investment holds out hope of full order books.

Most of the offshore investments will go on production plant. Total investment in North Sea, Canadian, U.S. and Soviet oil and gas fields is expected to exceed \$50bn up to 1988, reckons Gotaverken.

"Production investments will dominate the offshore market during the next few years," said the Swedish yard recently. For Gotaverken offshore construction has meant profits of nearly \$30m in each of the past two years.

Gotaverken plunged into the

WORLD SEMI-SUBMERSIBLE RIG ORDERS		
Where built	On order	Delivered since 1980
Sweden	29	116
South Korea	1	9
Japan	3	15
France	2	4
Norway	1	5
Singapore	2	3
Britain	3	1
Finland	2	3
U.S.	—	3
China	2	—
Spain	1	—
Canada	—	—
Soviet Union	1	2
* All at Gotaverken yard.		

Source: Gotaverken Arendal

proper training of its workforce before building its first rig for delivery in 1980.

It has since delivered 11 semi-submersibles, five were to its own design. It is this expertise which companies such as Howard Doris, the Anglo-French company with a fabrication yard in Scotland, and Bechtel of the U.S. want to use if they succeed in obtaining Scott Lithgow. Bechtel plans to link with financial institutions.

Gotaverken, part of the state-owned Swedyards group but contemplating independence, has worked with both companies. The £125m production platform which Sun Oil of the U.S. wants to build for the Balmoral field in the North Sea will be a Gotaverken design with Bechtel as project manager.

offshore market in the late 1970s after it became clear its future as a tanker builder was in jeopardy. It studied the market and paid attention to

market without being seen as an invader.

"We consider the UK market as a main market," he added. The Gothenburg yard has built an accommodation module for a North Sea platform of Britoil, which was pleased with the result. It has designed rigs built by Cammell Laird.

Cammell Laird was seen as a front runner for the Sun Oil contract but now seems to have slipped. BS appears unwilling to commit itself to another complex offshore contract while it is still smarting from the Scott Lithgow debacle.

Gotaverken admits it cannot compete on costs in steel fabrication, welding and plating with yards in Japan (such as Mitsubishi, Kawasaki, Hitachi, and Mitsui) or South Korea (Daewoo and Hyundai).

It likes, therefore, to become fully involved in rig building projects at an early stage, using its own designs, and management skills. Each stage of a contract from design through steelwork to completion is treated as a separate profit centre.

At the start of its offshore life, Gotaverken hired special experts to help it get going. Its first two rigs benefited from Government subsidies said Mr von Mentzer, but the rest have been purely commercial. When it has lost out to the Far East, it has conducted post mortems to see why. In some cases, it says it has estimated later that owners may have found it cheaper and quicker to order in Sweden.

Its involvement with Bechtel has come as the latter is seek- ing to raise its profile in the UK and shed its image as a U.S.-based multinational. It has had a management and coordination role in nine North Sea fields, including Balmoral with Sun Oil, as well as wide experience in engineering, construction and offshore work.

Representatives from both Bechtel I and Howard Doris, which hopes to build the Sun Oil platform as does Highland Fabricators (Brown and Root of the U.S. and Britain's George Wimpey), will visit Eritoll next week.

It is completion of this sophisticated but problem-plagued rig that will have to be a priority for the new owners of Scott Lithgow. After that, the way will be clear to benefit from the expected investment bonanza.

Survival scheme wins acceptance at TV-am

By David Goodhart, Labour Staff

AGREEMENT has been reached with the unions at TV-am, the breakfast television station, on a cost-cutting package which ensures survival for the next three months at least.

The main union, the 170-strong Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, yesterday endorsed the principle of changing working practices after an initial draft document was amended by the management.

The key change involves moving from an expensive five days-on-five days off system to four days on, three days off. The amended rota will bring considerable savings to the company on overtime and weekend work.

TV-am was looking for a saving of £1.5m. The combination of changed working practices from the ACTT and the natural wastage of about 15 jobs led to the company on overtime and weekend work.

The changes were accepted by a large majority of ACTT members, although there will be further discussions with the company over details.

There was some opposition from members who felt that although the initial agreements were — in the main — very generous, they were compensation for anti-social hours.

Raymond Snoddy writes: January was the BBC's best month in the television ratings since last summer. With the help of *The Thorn Birds* on BBC1 and *Smoker* on BBC2, it had a 48 per cent share of total viewing.

That compared with 45.5 in December and a low of 43.5 per cent in September.

The *Thorn Birds*, the controversial American soap opera which attracted the ire of ministers and audiences of more than 15m, just sneaked into the Top 10 at number 10.

It was beaten by seven episodes of the favourite British soap opera — *Coronation Street*.

Mr Brian Wrenham, BBC Television's director of programmes, had said that the BBC would probably recover in the winter quarter and close the audience gap with the ITV systems.

Allowances hope for cable laying

By Raymond Snoddy

THERE ARE growing signs that the cable TV industry will be able to claim 100 per cent capital allowances for the laying of cable.

In November, it was feared the Inland Revenue was moving towards the view that cable ducting was the "setting" in which the cable is housed, and not plant, attracting capital allowances.

For some cable operators this distinction could have prevented them going ahead because of the high costs of digging up roads and laying cable. Capital allowances on some £200m could be involved.

The Inland Revenue has still not made a final ruling. It has taken the unusual step of asking for outside counsel's opinion on the issue.

FT journalist wins award

JUNE FIELD of the Financial Times has been named property journalist of the year for her high standard of reporting throughout last year. She received a cheque for £600 from Mr Ron Presby on behalf of Edward Erdman & Company, the sponsors, and a silver salver awarded by the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers.

Other awards were presented at a London dinner on Thursday to David Mercer, of The Scotsman, provincial property journalist; Caroline McHie, of the Sunday Times, residential journalist; Adam Murray of the Estates Times, commercial and industrial property journalist; and Paul Raymer, of the Birmingham Post, president's prize for journalism.

Lloyd's agents told to reveal reinsurance details

By John Moore, City Correspondent

UNDERWRITING AGENTS in the Lloyd's insurance market have been asked to disclose the reinsurance arrangements they have made with offshore companies. The request, at a meeting of agents yesterday, was made by Mr Peter Miller, Lloyd's chairman, following a wave of scandals in the market.

Lloyd's is under pressure from the Inland Revenue, which is trying to trace millions of pounds not declared for tax purposes by the market's professionals.

Under the guise of reinsurance contracts, money has been channelled out of the market by the professionals to companies based in tax havens which are controlled by the working members of the Lloyd's market and their families.

More than \$400m (£223m) is believed to have been channelled to Bermuda and Lloyd's is to examine which are legitimate and which are bogus re-insurances.

The disclosure proposals form

part of the agreement with the Revenue which has set up a special office in Mincing Lane near Lloyd's to investigate the market's affairs.

In the past week, Lloyd's launched an inquiry headed by Sir Edward Singleton, former president of the Law Society, to investigate the affairs of Lewis, Parry & Raven, the underwriting agent, and establish the amounts of money which have flowed from insurance syndicates under their control to offshore companies controlled by the agency's founding directors and their families.

Lloyd's is examining the ultimate beneficial ownership of the Bermuda Reinsurance Company, and the Midland Reinsurance Company, based in Bermuda, whose shares are held in trust for the children of directors of the agency. Midland Reinsurance has a legal charge over all principal moneys and interest on the group's headquarters, Oxford House in London.

The figures underline the extent of the rise in the real tax burden in the last five years and show why Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, is so keen on raising the income-tax levels.

Overall, a reduction in the basic rate to restore tax payments in real terms to their 1978-79 levels would add a further 5 per cent to the 5 per cent increase in real take home income that households have already enjoyed over the period.

The figures underline the extent of the rise in the real tax burden in the last five years and show why Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, is so keen on raising the income-tax levels.

As in the previous round, the Government is likely to treat best those companies with firm commitments to research and development.

The Department of Energy wants to encourage the industry to explore west and north of the Shetlands so as to ascertain more fully the extent of UK oil reserves. It is therefore expected to tell oil companies that it will look more favourably on their applications if they include offers to explore

in such deep and hostile waters.

As in the previous round, the Government is likely to treat best those companies with firm commitments to research and development.

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expected until early next year, when it is likely that about 70 blocks will be finally allocated.

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Cut in basic rate needed to restore tax levels

By Peter Riddell, Political Editor

THE BASIC RATE of income tax of a married man on average earnings would have to fall from 39p in the pound at present to 23.4p to restore his tax payments in real terms to the level they were at before the Conservatives took office in 1979.

A Treasury parliamentary answer shows that the basic rate of income tax in 1983-84 needed to restore tax payments, including income tax, National Insurance contributions and indirect taxes, to their 1978-79 levels.

Overall, a reduction in the basic rate to restore tax payments in real terms to their 1978-79 levels would add a further 5 per cent to the 5 per cent increase in real take home income that households have already enjoyed over the period.

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Asset strength of holiday crash fund to be investigated

By Kevin Brown

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday promised an inquiry into claims that the state fund responsible for compensating customers of crashed package holiday companies has insufficient cash.</p

Disapproval of the Budget

MR LARRY WACHTEL, a Prudential-Bache guru who has the enviable task of interpreting the capital markets on radio every morning, summed up the extraordinary events on the New York Stock Exchange this week with a characteristically caustic dealer's comment: "Wall Street," he told thousands of New York listeners, "has become the conscience of Washington."

The remark captured the market's feelings perfectly for once. This was the week when the markets finally lost their patience with the budget deficit and with a President who has refused to do anything about it while promising just the opposite. As Mr Reagan headed off across the continent on an electioneering jamboree to his home town and a long holiday weekend in California, the stock market plunged sent a warning volley of disapproval across his bow.

Wall Street has, of course, been worrying mildly about the deficit since the beginning of this year. But over the last fortnight two things have happened to bring this vaguely perceived

problem into sharp focus. First, President Reagan went before Congress and virtually said that he was going to do nothing positive to try and reduce it this year; indeed, his temporising solution of a bi-partisan committee seems quite wrong-headed in an election year when the opposition can use the proceedings to dramatise the issue.

The second event was Mr Paul Volcker's measured exposition to the House Banking Committee of the fix in which the Federal Reserve Board now finds itself. Put briefly, his argument goes like this: the dependence on foreign capital to help finance the deficit makes it difficult to bring rates down and a determined push from the Fed might even cause an uncontrollable collapse in the dollar; if, on the other hand, the central bank does not ease up over the longer term, the constraints on the money supply could choke off the recovery.

Mr Volcker argues that the Government, therefore, needs to act in a controlled manner on the deficit, bringing it down steadily in a way that would allow an easing of rates without

an explosion in money growth. The hope is that this would lead to his ideal of healthy, sustained, non-inflationary expansion. In the meantime, the pressures that are building up in

ing to find a bottom in a heavy bout of trading the following day. By the final bell on Thursday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average had fallen by 45 points since the publication of Mr Volcker's monetary report to Congress on Monday, and was more than 185 points down on the near-record figure touched on January 6. The last time the Dow was at current levels was back on April 12 last year.

Mr Volcker has shifted the index so comprehensively mainly because he appears to have put a clear floor under interest rates. If rates are not heading down—and the post Christmas consensus was that they would—equities appear heavily overvalued on a yield basis. Midway through January, first class commercial paper was yielding around 13 per cent, while Salomon Brothers' dividend estimates for 1983 put the broadly-based S and P 500 index on a yield of 4.8 per cent. With the S and P down to the 155 point region by the end of this week, the yield has moved back in the right direction to around 4.7 per cent.

At the same time, the strength of interest rates has begun to make it look less certain that corporate profits can maintain

Written down, but not off

STEAM rising from the cold douche which has hit an overheated Wall Street and U.S. dollar this week should not be allowed to obscure the fact that the mining industry is still heading for a better year—even if some of the share prices are looking rather soggy.

Of course you have to be an optimist if you are in any way involved with the mining industry, as I may have remarked before. One such is Mr Pierre Gouseland, chairman of Amax, the U.S. natural resource major which built up its fortunes on molybdenum, the steel industry metal.

Those fortunes have wilted with the demise of the market for molybdenum which is expected to continue to be a loss-maker for Amax this year. Copper is not doing very well either and Amax has had to write off some \$308.8m (£215.8m) from its interests in these metals.

As a result the company's fourth quarter loss has expanded to a worst-ever \$566.9m. It makes an awesome total loss for 1983 of \$459m which follows a loss of \$30.1m in 1982. And yet Mr Gouseland was looking positively cheerful when I saw him this week.

The answer can be summed up in one word—aluminium. Demand for this metal has recovered sharply and is still growing. It lifted aluminium prices by over 40 per cent last year to an average 65 cents per lb and at the current level of over 80 cents the metal is providing a bonanza for the producers.

The only thing that may be giving them some thought for concern is that if prices go much higher consumers will look again at the merits of the rival metal, copper, prices of which are wallowing at around 65 cents per lb; there is a lot of it about, as they say.

Indeed, Sir James Foots, the previous chairman of MIM Holdings, pointed last year to growing demand for Australian minerals from Asia and the Pacific Basin. CRA is also well aware of this huge potential for its diversified mineral products and is already moving in.

It is possible that one day the Pacific Rim may be a more important factor for Australia than the U.S. economy. It's only a thought, but it may provide some consolation for holders of CRA who have seen their shares fall this week from 375p to 336p in deference to the trend on Wall Street.

In the world of nickel, life is still far from easy. At this time last year there were high hopes that the prices of this steel industry metal would show a good recovery.

Such hopes proved short-lived, however, and Canada's major producer, Inco, received an average price for its metal of only \$2.25 per pound compared with \$2.71 in 1982 but at least it was able to increase sales.

Fourth quarter results for 1982 announced this week show a further loss of US\$54.8m (£38.6m) which makes a total loss for the year of \$234.9m compared with a restated loss of \$203.3m for 1983.

The rival Falconbridge managed to move into profit in the fourth quarter but still showed a loss on the year of C\$18.4m before extraordinary items.

Like other mining majors, both Inco and Falconbridge have been increasing productivity and general efficiency by their cost-cutting programmes. Inco has said that its 1984 results should improve "significantly" over those of 1983, although the metal price is

currently only around \$2.15 per pound.

The general feeling is that the nickel market is over the worst, although the average price for this year is not expected to be more than around \$2.50 per pound. This could still make quite a difference to these producers which are currently operating in the barely "break-even" area."

It would also help Australia's Western Mining which, with the help of its important gold interests, has done well in the first half of its year to next June.

The prices received in Australian dollars for the company's U.S. dollar sales of

nickel and gold have benefitted by favourable exchange rates and net profits for the half-year have risen to A\$18.1m from only A\$1.24 a year ago.

Aluminium also comes into the Western Mining picture via the 30.5 per cent-owned Alcoa of Australia. In all, therefore, Western Mining should see a further rise in earnings in the second half.

Tempering this view to some extent would be any easing in the value of the U.S. dollar which would erode the exchange rate benefit on metal sales' income. On the other hand it might well be accompanied by a rise in the dollar price of gold.

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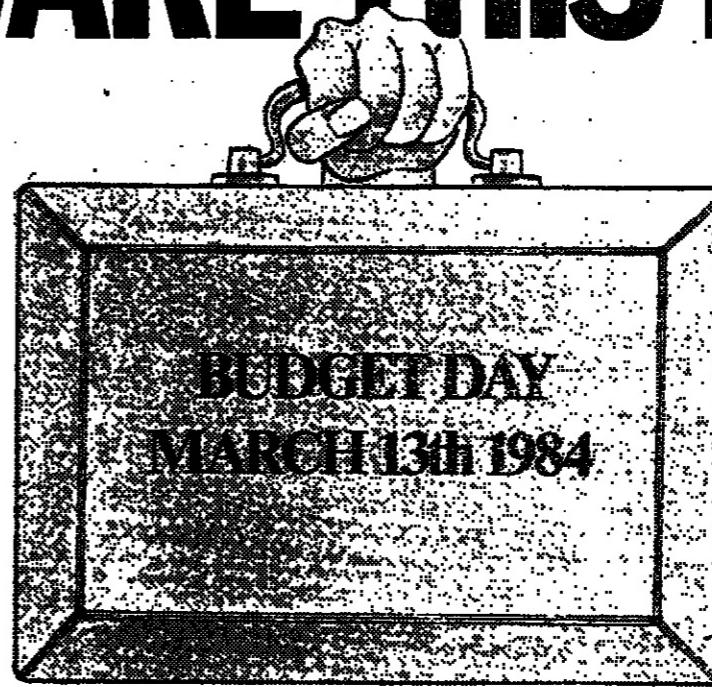
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SUNDAY TIMES, 5 FEB 1984

"It is increasingly looking as if the Chancellor will introduce legislation which will end their tax advantages."
MONEY MAGAZINE, FEB 1984

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Sale by a receiver

BY OUR LEGAL STAFF

In April 1969, my wife and I guaranteed a fixed and floating debenture in respect of a group of companies of which we were directors and major shareholders. In October 1971, the companies went into liquidation, the official receiver being appointed liquidator. However, before the winding-up order was made, the debenture holders appointed a receiver and manager. First of all the company's assets were disposed of at a gross under-value than two of our personal assets were sold. The receiver has never supplied copies of his payments and receipts to either the companies or my wife and self.

In November 1973 my wife and I were made personally bankrupt. The debenture holder's receiver and manager did not make any claim in the bankruptcy, but took the charged securities. My wife and I were discharged from bankruptcy in 1977.

The final asset which was originally in the names of my wife and self consists of 26 acres of land designated for residential development. The land is about to be sold by the debenture holder's receiver for circa £750,000. The debenture holders claim about £300,000 of this, made up of about £70,000 capital and the remainder grossed-up interest.

I should like to know the answers to the following:

1) Will the surplus on the receiver's sale be paid to my wife and me, or will it be paid to our Trustee in Bankruptcy?

2) Regarding the sales of freehold land and buildings at a gross under-value by the Receiver and Manager, is it too late to make a claim for negligence?

3) Is it possible to force the Receiver and Manager to render accounts to myself in respect of our assets and the sale of same?

4) Are the matters referred to above affected by the following authorities: a) Cuckmere Brick Co Ltd v Mutual Finance Ltd (1971) Ch 949; b) Standard Chartered Bank v Walker and another (before Court of Appeal June 17 1982 — Lords Denning, L. J. Wilkins and L. J. Fox) — "The Times."

The surplus on sale of the land should be paid to you and your wife.

If, as seems to be the case, the sales at an undervalue were effected before 1978, it is too late to make a claim against the receiver.

We think that the receiver

is an accounting party and can therefore be required to render accounts showing his dealings with the company's assets, and yours, but that will not revive a cause of action for a sale made negligently over six years ago.

Both the cases you cite have relevance but neither will assist in respect of the sale of the company's assets in 1971 or 1972. The Standard Chartered Bank case is reported in (1972) 1 WLR 1410.

Held over CGT

I have a tenanted house inherited in 1965, probate value £617, present rent £8 per week, and would like to convey this to three sons equally.

Would it be possible to have capital gains tax held over? If so, could you please inform me of the correct procedure regarding the Inland Revenue?

Yes. The solicitor who prepares the conveyance of the property to your sons (as tenants in common, presumably) will be able to draft a simple letter to your tax inspector, for signature by all four of you.

Surrender of tenancy

I inherited a house in 1967 occupied by a sitting tenant. The rent is controlled and barely brings in enough to maintain the outside of the property. It has been re-roofed, new bathroom fittings installed and a new sink during the past few years in the painting and general maintenance of the outside, the cost of which has been allowed against income for tax purposes. The tenant is now willing to vacate the property provided I pay compensation and a figure of £2,000 has been mentioned.

Can you please tell me whether payment of such compensation is legal and would he binding if the tenant could not come back later and repudiate the deal.

A contract to surrender a tenancy which is a protected tenancy, even where it is in consideration of a sum such as you mention, is NOT enforceable by the landlord, but it can be en-

forced by the tenant. If such a contract has been completed by wife, pressure could develop (re-marriage etc) to change the Will. My wife and I wish to safeguard our children against this.

We realise that forming a trust would do so, but feel that we cannot justify the Stamp Duty or Capital Transfer Tax. Can you offer advice please?

Your wife can contract (for valuable consideration e.g. £10, or by deed), with her sons not to alter her will. This will not prevent her being able to alter her will, but would give the disappointed beneficiaries a cause of action against the estate so that they could recover in damages what they would lose in legacies.

Sole control of CGT

In your "Finance and the Family" column your Legal Staff advised an enquirer (December 10, 1983) that a joint account of father and daughter would not count as a gift for CGT purposes if "you so operate the joint account as to demonstrate that it is really you retain sole control of the money."

Could you further advise as to how this can be done? Would it mean, for instance, that during this lifetime only the father has a right to withdraw or dispose of the money, while the daughter has rights only after his death? Or, what other arrangement would "demonstrate sole control"?

It is a question of fact in each case whether there has been joint operation or control of the account in reality. If all payments in and withdrawals are made by one only of the joint owners and the deposits are provided from the funds of that one owner the sole control would normally be established. It must be borne in mind that if the account is in two or more names the bank may well feel unable to refuse to accept the directions of the account owners, even where an owner has previously been completely inactive.

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible.

We think that the receiver

Safeguarding children in wills

My wife has a quarter share in the equity of three commercial properties. In her Will I benefit from the income, but the equity transfers to our

The Mercury approach to unit trusts:



a team strategy to protect the individual investor.

The private investor probably faces more problems today than ever before. There is the delicate balance to be struck between concentrating a portfolio (and thereby increasing the risk factor) and diversifying it (with the possibility of diluting its performance).

Also — especially in volatile conditions — there is a serious temptation to over-react to short-term situations, rather than identifying basic trends and planning sensibly to take advantage of them.

To these problems, we believe that Mercury Fund Managers can offer some sound solutions.

As part of S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd., Mercury benefits from the experience and resources of one of the UK's largest and most successful fund managers, with over £5,000 million invested around the world.

It also benefits from a proven approach to investment planning, which recognises the fact that even some very experienced investors pay too little attention to analysing the differences between markets and market

sectors as a prerequisite for share selection. The result is a system of fund management that makes the individual manager responsible for sifting advice and for the selection of individual shares, but backs him with in-house research undertaken by our fund management teams themselves.

If you feel that this kind of professional approach to investment represents the best long-term protection for you, you should consider the Mercury range of unit trusts:

Mercury American Growth Fund
Mercury European Fund
Mercury General Fund
Mercury Gilt Fund
Mercury Income and Recovery Fund
Mercury International Fund
Mercury Japan Fund
Mercury Exempt Fund

For full details of these funds, and our other investment services, contact Peter Rees at Mercury Fund Managers Ltd., St Albans House, Goldsmith Street, London EC2P 2DL (telephone 01-600 4555).

The Mercury approach. It pays.

Mercury Fund Managers—part of S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

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INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Finding a way into pension plans

THE CURRENT Government inquiry into portable pensions has highlighted several restrictive practices within the current pension framework, most of which have been imposed by the Inland Revenue. One such practice is that

which requires the self-employed to save for their pensions through a life company contract in order to qualify for the generous tax concessions available.

Thus if the self-employed seek to build up their own share portfolios to provide their pension, the investment will be treated by the taxman in the same way as any other form of individual savings—and clobbered accordingly.

This is of general concern to the Stock Exchange seeking to attract back the private investor. But investment trust managers are even more worried. Increasingly under pressure from big institutional shareholders they want to expand their private share ownership. They feel that investment trusts can provide pension

savers with investment expertise and spread of risk on a par with unit trusts.

Over the past four years, various schemes have appeared which enable the self-employed effectively to run their own temporary basis, awaiting a more favourable time to buy.

But no shares will be sold unless this is necessary to meet any liquidity requirements.

This can operate either way as far as investors are concerned. Over the past five years discounts have come down from very high levels, and this has been one reason why investment trusts have outperformed unit trusts in recent years.

Scottish American's discount is around 26 per cent at present.

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Other investment trust management groups could well follow the lead of Stewart and Sun Life Assurance to launch a new special fund for Sun Life's personal pension contracts. The utilised fund will have Stewart as the fund managers and though the investment powers are wide, the fund will invest in shares of Scottish American Investment Company, known as Saints.

The new fund is called appropriately the Saints personal pension plan.

The fund is available only on single premium contracts.

The policy of the fund managers is to hold Scottish American

shares at all times, with the cash discount to the underlying asset values, whereas unit prices are the asset value.

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Scottish

TRADED OPTIONS

A cheaper way for pessimists

CHARLES BACHELOR explains how an emerging financial instrument can be used to hedge your risk.

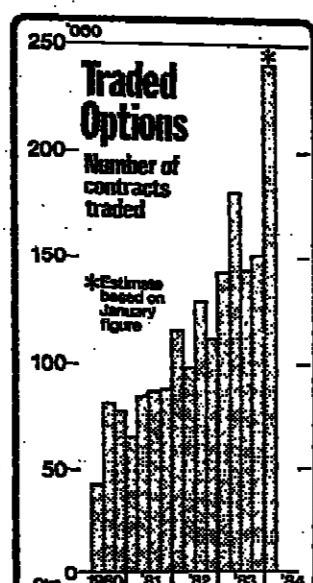
WITH THE end of the financial year in sight, investors sitting on large capital gains made in the stock market should consider traded options as a way of minimising their tax liability.

With many shares currently near their all-time highs, writing an option on shares you already own will allow you to protect your investment against a fall in the market over the next few months. At the same time you could defer the tax liability which arises from the sale of the shares from the 1983-84 tax year, starting on April 5.

"Lots of private clients want to fix their selling price at present levels, but they don't want to be taxed this year," comments one options specialist.

"Writing a deep-in-the-money call option (where the exercise price is well below the current market price of the underlying stock) to ensure that the stock is definitely taken from you, is proving very popular."

To understand how this



would work, assume that you wish to sell your shares in Marks & Spencer. Instead, you decide to hedge the shares by using the Marks & Spencer 200p April call option costing 27p. Writing that is selling the "call" option will give you an immediate profit of 27p nominally taxable this year, as a capital gain (see panel).

It is times like these, when the end of a financial year makes tax considerations particularly important, or at

THE METHOD of taxing options on shares has long been the subject of esoteric discussion.

Until 1980, the taxman treated all options, crudely and often unfairly, as wasting assets whose residual value was nil. But since then London traded options (and those traded on approved foreign stock markets) have been subjected to more favourable rules although the more traditional untraded call, put and double options are still regarded as wasting assets.

Unless the investor is a professional trader, the profits and losses from traded option dealing will be subject to the rules of capital gains tax.

In the simplest case, where the investor buys a call option and then exercises it, the cost of the option is added to the cost of the shares, thus reducing any capital gains liable to tax. The rules of indexation, however, apply partly from the month in which the option is bought and partly from the month in which the shares are bought.

If you actually bought the

times of uncertainty, such as before the last general election, that the hedging opportunities of traded options are highlighted. This allows the backers of traded options to stress their role in a conservative investment strategy rather than as a speculative vehicle.

It has been an uphill struggle for the traded options market over the past six years to establish a reasonable volume of business. Its supporters have had to overcome the

Not an optional tax

When a put option is bought and exercised, the cost of the option may be deducted from the sale price.

If any traded option is bought and later sold, then profits or losses are treated in the same way as capital gains or losses from share dealing.

The rules for writing (i.e. selling) options are more complex. When you sell an option which is not exercised against you by the expiry date, then the option's entire sale price is liable to capital gains tax. Thus in the example quoted in the article, the investor would be liable to tax on a capital gain of 27p per Marks and Spencer call option, in the tax year when the option was sold, i.e. 1983-84.

But if the call option you have written is exercised against you, then the sale price of the option is added to the sale price of the shares for tax purposes. In the Marks and Spencer example, this would give you a total price of 200p plus 27p, i.e. 227p.

If you actually bought the

shares for 210p, your capital gain would be 17p per share (minus any indexation). If you bought the shares for 240p, your capital loss would be 13p per share.

But in this example, if the option was written in the current tax year 1983-84, but exercised only after April 5 (which would be the expiry date was April 25), then the investor appears to have made a capital gain in 1983-84.

But, although he will have declared his option writing as a capital gain in his 1983-84 tax form, he will not be obliged to pay any capital gains tax on this, provided he tells his tax inspector of the subsequent exercise of the option against him. Whether he ultimately makes a 17p gain per share or a 13p loss, his CGT position will be affected.

If an option you have written has not yet expired by the time you fill in your tax form—and so you do not yet know whether it will be exercised against you—your tax

inspector will normally agree to wait before assessing you on your 1983-84 option writing.

Thus, curiously, your tax liability in one year will be affected by events beyond your control in the subsequent year.

In all these cases of writing a call option, the indexation allowance runs from when you originally bought the shares to the month in which the option is exercised against you.

If you write a put option which is exercised against you, the price at which you sell the option is offset against the cost to you of buying the shares. Only the net cost is eligible for indexation.

If April 5 intervenes before the option is exercised against you, the same rules apply as for writing a call option.

Further details on the taxation of traded options are supplied in a booklet produced by accountants Spicer and Pogler (London office telephone: 01-223 3070).

Clive Wolman



The traded option patch on the Stock Exchange

volume in issue.

• An option is the right to buy or sell shares in a particular company at a fixed price and on a specific date up to nine months ahead. Options conferring the right to buy are known as "calls"; options to sell are "puts".

The simplest form of option transaction is the purchase of a "call" option in a stock which the investor expects to increase in value. For example, suppose that with ABC Company's shares standing at 280p in January you buy and April 310p option at, say, 17p. By the time the option expires in April the stock has risen to 350p. This means you have the right to buy the shares at 310p and sell at 350p to show a gross profit of 40p. Deduct the cost of your option and your net profit is (40-17p) 23p. Options are traded in contracts for, in most

cases 1,000 shares, so your profit on a contract is 1,000 x 23p.

This example ignores dealing costs which start at £1.50 per contract, with a minimum of £10, rising to 24 per cent on the first 25,000 of premium and smaller percentages above that.

The holder of the option does not need actually to buy the shares unless he wants them for a long-term investment. He may realise his profit by selling the option in the market for 40p.

A "put" is a mirror image of this transaction. The investor buys the right to sell the shares at the current price hoping they will fall. When the time comes to deliver them he will be able to buy them in the stock market at the lower price prevailing and sell them at the higher price agreed under the option contract.

Risks of a worthless guarantee

ERIC SHORT on the problems exposed by a recent insurance company collapse.

LAST WEEK, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry petitioned for the winding-up of Cavalier Insurance Company, thus writing a further chapter in the extended warranty insurance scandal surrounding the marketing company, Multi-Guarantee.

Extended warranty provides insurance against the cost of replacing defective parts and servicing household goods and cars after the manufacturer's warranty has expired. The business has mushroomed over the past few years. Retailers sell insurance schemes to customers at the points of sale.

Multi-Guarantee blossomed by offering warranty schemes for retailers. But the methods used in underwriting the risks were questionable. Cavalier Insurance was not authorised by the Department of Trade to write extended warranty business, but it was used by Multi-Guarantee for its schemes.

Normally consumers with extended warranty schemes through Multi-Guarantee and Cavalier would not be much perturbed. After all, the previous Labour Government brought in the Policyholders Protection Act in 1975 to ensure that the public did not suffer undue financial loss when an insurance company ran into financial difficulties.

The Act guarantees that policyholders will receive 90 per cent of their insurance benefits.

But apparently this is not the case for Cavalier. The Official Receiver has warned policy-



holders with claims that they cannot expect to receive anything. So what has gone wrong?

The operation of the Act has been affected by the judgment given last November.

The essence is that where an insurance contract is prohibited by statute, it is void. Thus since Cavalier was not authorised to write extended warranty business those contracts issued were illegal and thus void.

It is known that Cavalier had received over £1m in premiums on extended warranty business and that there were around 130,000 consumers with insurance.

The liquidation petition suggested that some £700,000 of money had been misappropriated, and referred to fraud.

This is a highly unsatisfactory state of affairs. The Policyholders Protection Act was designed to protect policyholders when an insurance company ran into financial problems per se. It was not intended to carry its own clause in small print.

The responsibility for policing the insurance industry rests squarely with the DTI, though the Department does not have a system for monitoring that insurance companies do not exceed their authorisation. The department was unaware of the activities of Cavalier until alerted by a Press article.

Fidelity Trusts

FOR GROWTH

American Trust

Aims to produce capital appreciation from a diversified portfolio of shares of American companies. At 9.284 offer price 77.6p and estimated gross yield 0.32%, paid 15 December (xd 6 November).

American Special Situations Trust

An actively managed portfolio of primarily American "special situations" aimed to produce above average capital growth. At 9.284 offer price 47.1p and estimated gross yield 0%, paid 15 August (xd 2 May).

Japan Trust

A portfolio of Japanese stocks, advised by Fidelity's unique and successful team of Japanese nationals in Tokyo, aimed to maximise capital growth. At 9.284 offer price 63.3p and estimated gross yield 0%, paid 15 August (xd 2 July).

Special Situations Trust

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FOR GROWTH AND INCOME

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An equity portfolio aimed to produce capital appreciation together with above average income. At 9.284 offer price 52.8p and estimated gross yield 5.15%, paid on 15 January and 15 July (xd 6 December and 6 June).

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Maximum Income Equity Trust

Aims to produce as high as possible a yield commensurate with a proper degree of security from a diversified portfolio entirely invested in equities. At 9.284 offer price 48.1p and estimated gross yield 7.08%, paid quarterly on 31 March, 30 June, 30 September, 31 December (xd 2 March, 2 June, 2 September, 16 November).

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GENERAL INFORMATION

A contract note for your investment together with a brochure will be sent immediately. Unit Certificates will be sent within 28 days. An initial charge of 5% is included in the price of the units and will be deducted from the first payment of capital and income (if any).

Annual charges are deducted from the gross income of each Trust, at the following rates of value on the Trust + VAT: 4% for Gilt and Fixed Interest Trust, Maximum Income Equity Trust and Growth + Income Trust; 1% for American Trust, American Special Situations Trust, Special Situations Trust and Managed International Trust; and 1% 5% for Japan Trust. The Managers have the authority to vary the annual charges of Japan Trust and Managed International Trust up to 1% 5% after giving three months' notice. The Trust Deed for Managed International Trust contains provision for the Managers to take power to write or purchase traded call options on behalf of the Trust at future date. There is no present intention to use this facility.

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First names _____

Address _____

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Date _____

Signature _____

(Joint applicants must sign and supply names and addresses separately)

Surname (MR/MRS/MISS) _____

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Surname (MR/MRS/MISS) _____

Block letters please

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

After the year of the French

Our series continues with a report from DAVID MARSH in Paris

THE FRENCH stock market, after its initial flight at President Mitterrand's election victory in May 1981, broke all records for price advances and transactions volume in 1983.

The Socialist Government has ushered in a series of reforms designed to encourage savings and wake up the traditionally somnolent French financial markets.

Perhaps most important of all, Paris is starting to wriggle alive again as an international trading centre. U.S. and UK institutional investors have been beating a path to the door of Paris stockbrokers over the last year.

In a market which remains a weakling by the standards of London and New York, a relatively small amount of foreign money can go a long way.

Investment inflows from UK pension funds and insurance companies in December 1982, and particularly in March last year, played an important part in starting last year's rally, according to Paris stockbrokers.

In the opposite direction, many Paris stockbrokers' clients are also being tempted to invest funds abroad—in spite of the exchange control "premium" which requires currency purchases for such purposes to be made at a punitive rate which is now at more than FF 11 to the dollar.

Overall transactions on the bourse, roughly one-third in equities and two-thirds in

bonds, rose 53 per cent last year to FF 330bn, well over double the volume in the moribund year of 1981 when the Socialists came to power.

The bourse rise has paradoxically been accompanied by stagnation in the economy as a whole and worsening financial problems in the French industrial heartlands comprising the steel, shipyards and coal sectors. But the Government is striving to increase corporate profits and investors have been cheered by efforts to tackle difficulties caused by its tough industrial policies in troubled sectors which its right-wing predecessor could not put into effect because of union opposition.

There is a surprising consensus among bourse dealers that if the Right were now to return to office, the stock market would fall.

Additionally, the nationalisations of 1982, which at the time wiped off more than 10 per cent of bourse capitalisation, have now turned out to be a blessing in disguise.

A number of large industrial groups which were anyway in difficulties have been taken off the bourse listings. They are being restructured with taxpayers' funds. And their shareholders have been rewarded with compensation terms which now seem rather generous.

Roughly one third of quoted companies on the Paris market fell last year's advance. One important segment comprises around 100 export-oriented stocks, especially those in the agro-food business or in high technology, which have been

insulated from the domestic recession because of their spread of activities. This sector includes such stalwart "vedettes" as Générale Biscuit (which led last year's price advances with a 253 per cent jump), Essilor, Pernod Ricard, Roussel-Uclaf, Martell, L'Oréal, Perrier, Bic, ESN and Moët Hennessy.

Additionally, around 130 stocks benefited from the domestic downturn to trim their staff, improve productivity and cut losses. Leaders in this "recovery field" include Sommer-Allibert, DMC, Scea, Société Générale de Fonderie and Michelin.

Even accounting for last year's heady rise, some stockbrokers say parts of the bourse still look cheap—for instance in the retail sector, which was left out of the 1983 advance.

The Socialist Government has passed a number of tax incentives to encourage investment in shares and bonds. These go beyond the equity-favouring legislation introduced by M René Monory, the previous Economics Minister, in 1977-8. And the Finance Ministry has prodded the Paris stockbrokers' association to launch a second-tier market, modelled closely on the London Unlisted Securities Market, to boost the flow of small companies seeking a bourse quotation.

Under new rules which speed up formalities, lower costs and enable companies to float only 10 per cent of their shares, a total of 18 small- and medium-sized companies launched their shares on this market last year, an issuing rate about 50 per cent more than expected. Perhaps 25 new issues are due this year. Some banks and

brokers are making efforts to increase foreign investors' appetites in the "second market." Société Générale, for instance, has set up a fund in London to draw in foreign buying to this sector.

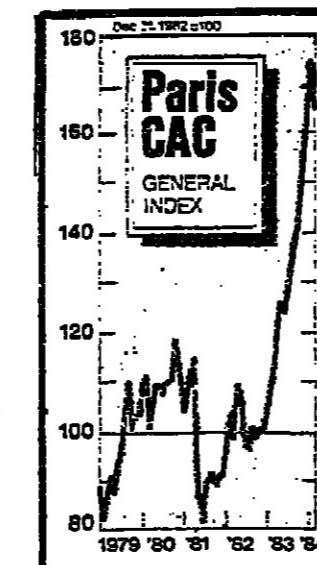
Increased personal investor interest (mainly through unit trusts) offered special tax breaks may have taken the percentage of equities owned by individuals to close to 50 per cent of outstanding shares, according to some estimates. The split in recent years has normally been about 60 per cent institutions 40 per cent individuals. The higher personal proportion compared with some other stock markets is a result of the scarcity of widely based French pension funds investing in equities.

The French equity market still suffers from several handicaps. Liquidity is not as high as in other major exchanges. Investors are often unable to buy large holdings. Often quotations are suspended when prices move by more than 1 per cent in either direction to encourage orderly trading, but this can hold up price fixing.

The exchange is not expected to move to continuous computerised trading for some years. There are no strict rules to prevent insider trading.

Regulations covering the disclosure of financial information by quoted companies are inadequate. Most companies publish results only once a year and there is no system to ensure that the news is communicated simultaneously to all interested parties.

Equity dealing commissions start at 0.65 per cent for trans-



actions of less than FF 650,000, falling progressively to 0.15 per cent for transactions over FF 2.2m.

One curiosity of French share dealing is the forward market, on which most shares are traded. Investors fix a price during the four-weekly accounting period, which generally starts on the 22nd or 23rd of the month, but do not pay up until the end of the month. If a deal is struck at the start of an accounting period, this means a five-week breathing space.

This gives foreign investors an opportunity to indulge in currency speculation by running uncovered positions. During the run-up to the long-awaited franc devaluation last March, British insurance companies made considerable profits by buying forward and settling their bills at the end of March (by which time the franc had cheapened considerably).

NEXT WEEK: The Mexican

UNIT TRUSTS

Advisers on where to go and who to go with

CLIVE WOLMAN follows up his articles with a look at funds investing overseas and those advising on them.

IF YOU want to invest in foreign stock markets, then life will be much simpler if you go through a managed fund such as a unit trust or investment trust.

Articles about unit trusts on these pages over the last two weeks have suggested that if you wish to invest in the UK stock market, you will probably make (or lose) as much money on average by yourself without using the professional investment managers of a unit trust.

Moreover, the administrative burden of investing in the market by yourself need not be great, particularly with the emergence of new financial instruments such as stock index futures.

But when it comes to investing overseas, the difficulties multiply if you go it alone. You have to find an honest broker to deal in the market for you, you have to arrange to transfer money abroad, to receive dividends, to pay with holding tax and claim double tax relief, often to grapple with a foreign language and so on.

Moreover, in contrast to the UK, you may reasonably expect to make more money by relying on the judgment of a professional investment manager than you would by making your own decisions—or by choosing shares at random.

In recent years most professional investment management houses in the U.S. have tended to outperform the broadly based stock market indices (though 1983, with the unfashionable "smokestack America" stocks recovering fast, turns out to have been a rather embarrassing year for many professionals).

When it comes to Japan, the world's second largest stock market, and to some of the smaller European markets such as Sweden, the performance figures suggest that the professional fund managers, at least the UK professionals, consistently do better than the average (as represented by the local stock market index).

But although investing through a unit trust will spare you many administrative headaches, you still face the difficulty of choosing the correct unit trust.

Over the last eight years, and more noticeably over the last three, several unit trust advisory and management services have sprung up. They aim to help investors choose between the 630 unit trusts on offer, including over 60 specialising in the U.S. market and a similar number in Far East markets.

Some of these services are linked to unit trust management groups. One, run by Fidelity (tel: 01-233 9911) puts its clients' money entirely into its own unit trusts unless there is none suitable for a particular specialist area. For the client this has the disadvantage that his money and his risks are not spread between different management groups, although Fidelity's fund managers are permitted to adopt fairly individualistic styles.

Kean Seager of Whitechurch Securities (tel: 01-977 5854), who was a former ICI pension fund manager, looks at the volatility of a unit trust port-



folio and compares that with his outlook for the market in question. If he is very bullish, he will look for a more volatile and aggressive portfolio.

There are in fact a few unit trust management groups whose names crop up regularly on the approved lists of these services. They are generally the medium-sized and up-and-coming groups such as GT, Henderson, Fidelity and Crescent.

One such group conspicuous by its absence is Framlington, which pays lower commissions to intermediaries than the rest. Jamie Berry admits this is a factor.

"With so little to choose between their funds and other good funds, their commissions make it difficult for us to support them," he says.

But the main and most dubious claim of the unit trust advisers is that they can make money for their clients by switching between different markets and sectors when they believe one is about to fall and the other rise.

Such switching generates commission income for the advisers—but the amount of switching between specialist funds remains much lower than in the U.S. Hoare Govett's service has recommended only one major switch in the last two years.

The Fidelity service can draw on a network of fund managers and research teams from all over the globe. It makes switching recommendations after its three-monthly international summit meetings between its chief fund managers.

Hoare Govett and the services linked to other unit trust management groups also have some in-house research back-up on which to make their decisions.

But most of the independent services make their decisions after reading the inevitably superficial reports on different national economies supplied by the unit trust groups or occasionally stockbrokers. Whether this enables them to out-guess the international financiers who determine the flows of money around the globe and the relative prices of different world stock markets is not clear.

At the very least, none has produced sufficiently detailed performance statistics to show that they have the skill to beat consistently...the rest...on the world.

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This £40 million fund invests in US equities with the aim of achieving capital growth. The emphasis is on high quality North American companies selected by our office in San Francisco. It is your way to share in the potential growth of the world's largest economy, well set on its recovery path.

GT Capital Fund

This fund invests in carefully selected UK companies with above average growth potential. If you share the view that the best British companies, and the London Stock Market, still have much potential, you should consider this £20 million fund with its excellent record.

GT Japan & General Fund

The aim of this fund is to achieve capital growth from a spread of investments in Japan with particular emphasis on growth companies. GT believes that Japan has one of the soundest economies in the world with well above average growth prospects. The £20 million fund is managed from our office in Hong Kong, backed by our research team in Tokyo.

Here are 4 good reasons why GT should always be among the leaders

GT European Fund

The performance figures shown in the charts above compare £1,000 invested in GT Funds with sector averages over the five year period to 1st January 1984 (European Fund over one year). The figures assume all net income reinvested and are on offer to offer basis. Source: Planted Savings.

PAST YEAR PAST TWO YEARS

GT European Fund 1983 1982

1. GT 125.8p 125.8p

2. Gilverton 125.8p 125.8p

3. MUG 125.8p 125.8p

4. LOP 125.8p 125.8p

5. Henderson 125.8p 125.8p

6. NatWest 125.8p 125.8p

7. Standard Life 125.8p 125.8p

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Clive Wolman reviews the growing range of tax-exempt friendly societies

Ways into a Victorian tax shelter

FOR MANY years, friendly societies were dismissed by investors as quaint anachronisms, whose high administrative charges prevented them from offering attractive rates of return.

That was before the tax avoidance experts discovered that anachronistic institutions are often governed by anachronistic tax laws. And since the 1980 Finance Act doubled the maximum level of benefits a friendly society can offer, several entrepreneurial and marketing orientated institutions have moved in.

In contrast to their origins in the Victorian working class, today friendly societies are most advantageous as investment vehicles for higher-rate taxpayers, at least those who are willing to tie up a modest amount of money for 10 years.

As with conventional life assurance policies, premiums paid on life policies with friendly societies are augmented by a 17.6 per cent contribution from the Government. But whereas life assurance companies are obliged to pay corporation tax and capital gains tax on the returns from their investments, friendly societies pay no tax whatsoever.

And when you cash in your investment after 10 years, you take all your profits tax free.

In some cases, this has meant merely that the tax privileges of friendly societies, instead of being passed on to investors, have been eaten up in high management charges, partly a consequence of their dealing with many small sums. For example, the Moneywise Friendly Society based in Bournemouth uses up the entire first year's premium on its 10-year unit-linked life assurance policy in management charges and commissions.

Nevertheless, increasing competition has led to the launching of some attractive schemes in recent months. It is doubtful whether the Government will permit the indefinite survival of all the tax anomalies which are being exploited.

But any tax changes are unlikely to affect 10-year policies already taken out. So it is worthwhile going in while the going is good.

But there are several major restrictions:

- The maximum annual premium you can pay is about £226 before tax relief, as a result of a limitation on the maximum sum assurable at £2,000. But Saver's Assurance is able to accept slightly higher premiums.

- The premiums have to be paid over 10 years, and the amounts cannot be varied.

- If you surrender your policy before 10 years are up, you will receive only the return of your premiums with no interest and no inflation adjustment.

- It is almost impossible to borrow directly or indirectly on the security of your policy.

- Most policies can be taken out only by a married person or a parent. But the Northern Rock Building Society has discovered a way round this restriction by linking up with the Odd Fellows Manchester Unity Life Insurance Collecting Society, a friendly society which was formed long before 1966 when the new restrictions took effect.

- At least half your money must be invested in what, again rather anachronistically, are considered to be low risk investments by the 1961 Trustee Act.

- There is a small danger that your friendly society could run into financial difficulties and become insolvent when you would not have the security of the Policyholder's Protection Act.

The Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, however, watches his brief closely and, on the one occasion that a society has floundered (Drummond Assurance in 1978), it was taken over by another society and none of its policyholders lost out.

In spite of the limitations on investment media imposed by Parliament, the most serious drawbacks of most of the current plans are self-imposed.

The most tax-efficient approach for a moderately wealthy investor is to regard his friendly society investment as the lowest risk part of his portfolio. This is because the returns on lower risk investments, typically deposit accounts, are generally taxed as investment income. But the profits on more speculative

investment are usually subject to the more favourable capital gains tax.

But as a friendly society provides a complete tax shelter, it is more logical to use it to shelter highly taxed returns rather than returns which would not be subject to much tax anyway. Thus the link-up

between the risklessness of a building society investment derives partly from the investor's ability to withdraw his money at any time.

Thus you are not obliged to stick with a building society if it fails to move up its interest rates in line with inflation, as occurred in 1974-75 and 1979-80.

But with a friendly society investment, you are effectively locked into your investment for 10 years. So that if inflation takes off again and building societies are again prevented by political pressures from raising their interest rates, your friendly society investment would suffer.

For this reason, those friendly society plans which are linked irrevocably to building society investment should not be viewed as riskless. These include the St. Andrew's Friendly Society, linked with Woolwich Equitable, Homeowners linked with the Bradford and Bingley Building Society and others, and Manchester Life linked with Northern Rock.

The Fleet friendly society also offers plans linked to the Halifax and Angel building societies, but retains the right to switch its investments. Another source of doubt about the link-up with building societies is that the promoters of these schemes often do not reveal what rate of interest is

being paid by the building society. The MULICS Northern Rock scheme is one example.

In most cases investors are being paid interest rates which, after making adjustments for the composite rate of tax on individual accounts, are closer to the relatively low building society ordinary share rates rather than the higher-interest two-year term shares.

There are several schemes, however, which invest in short-dated high coupon gilts. If interest rates and inflation move gradually upwards, investors will suffer small capital losses on their gilts but these should be more than offset by the higher yields they can obtain.

The Lancashire and Yorkshire Friendly Society, as well as having one plan linked with Garthmore's low-yielding unit trusts (mostly invested over-

seas), also has a "Capital Secure fund" which invests 100 per cent in gilts and other fixed interest stock.

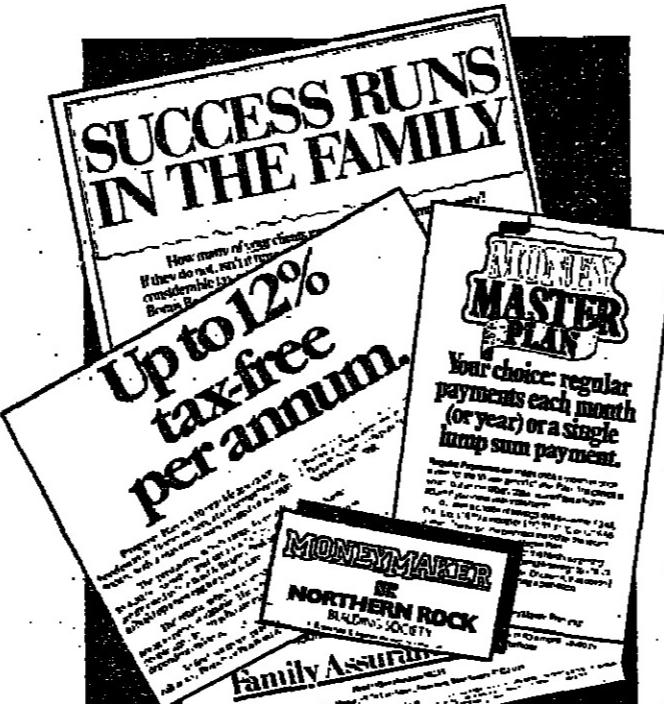
It has achieved high returns over the last five years. But this is partly because it has a relatively risky portfolio, holding gilts whose redemption dates are five or more years away. Thus, as with the building society schemes, the real returns to investors are vulnerable to an upsurge in inflation.

The Fleet friendly society, whose charges are the second lowest of any society (and the lowest for elderly investors), offers one plan which is 50 per cent invested in a high income unit trust, managed by Prolific.

But investing in any unit-linked plan, even in a high-yielding fund like this one, may lead to disappointment if the stock markets are in the doldrums when your 10 years are up.

A different type of scheme is offered by Savers' Assurance society, based in Oldham, Greater Manchester. It offers the only with-profits friendly society scheme, with a managed fund invested in a spread of shares, gilts, property and deposits. The with-profits structure allows the society to smooth out the fluctuations in returns from year-to-year thus reducing the risk to investors.

One minor disadvantage of a with-profits policy is that the society's charging structure is not transparent. Certainly, Savers' Assurance gives more generous commission to salesmen and brokers than the average. But most societies give high commissions in relation to the sums invested, usually £100 or more.



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Clampdown on tax avoiders

IF YOU think you've found yourself a way of saving tax, then think again.

Many off-the-peg tax avoidance plans sold through brokers may have to be withdrawn and re-vamped—and many books on saving tax re-written—as a result of a House of Lords' judicial ruling on tax avoidance handed down on Thursday. The courts will now strike down any steps in a series of transactions inserted purely to avoid the payment of tax.

The schemes and devices which could now be attacked retrospectively by the taxman include:

- The variety of schemes to avoid capital transfer tax, and possibly even the widely marketed inheritance trusts, which require the making of interest-free loans, and discounted gift plans.

- Schemes to avoid the

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CHRIS WORMELL

Scornful bard

BY ROBIN LANE FOX

A. E. Housman: A Critical Biography
by Norman Page. Macmillan.
£17.50. 236 pages

"The severity of Housman's presentation," wrote Enoch Powell, who heard it, "was the severity not of passionlessness, but of supreme passion, passion for true poetry and passion for truthfulness."

A. E. Housman devoted much of his life to emending words in the texts of difficult Latin poets. The task required a mastery of Latin and a faith that the words had been misinterpreted by earlier scribes. The work, on the face of it, was unimaginably arid and Housman's greatest endeavour went to a Latin poet who is intolerably obscure and unreadable. Housman brought this art to life, not only for those who could compete at it and enjoy the satisfactions of a great intellectual crossword puzzle. His Cambridge lectures were packed.

The study of classical literature in Cambridge still prides itself on its arcane, textual legacy. Housman's attacks on earlier scholars and contemporaries are among the finest vituperations in English prose. He approached each minute point with the range and fervour of a great scholar and speaker who could tie matters of great moment to an apparently minor problem.

Many people detested him: Norman Page quotes another listener who rebelled against this stony authority:

Innate in his starched linen and icy in his impassive aloofness as the Pole Star. His faith that all human knowledge was precious, whether or not it served the slightest human use, revolted me then, as it revolts me still.

As an intellectual study, Housman's interest goes far beyond improvements in the text of *Manilius*. At Trinity College, Cambridge, he once lived with 11 holders of the O.M. He is part of the mythology of all examiners. A brilliant classical linguist, he failed to get a degree at Oxford whose philosophy and classical history, Greats, were too much for him. A modest career as a minor Civil Servant was accompanied by papers of great brilliance on small points of Latin syntax and the misreadings in Latin



A. E. Housman: severe presenter

manuscripts. Without any previous academic job, he was made Professor at University College, London, and then Professor at Cambridge.

This career is not, however, a rebuke to Oxford. Housman's mastery of Latin and gift for textual studies were never in question. Others have had them since, and others have made as much, perhaps more, mark on the text of Juvenal, the one

proposed by one of the great scholars of the past. That attitude revolts me. So does his blindness to historical change, fortified by a "classicist's" long view, the restriction of his mind to matters of next to no moment and his gift for turning a good sentence on great, human matters which he did not understand.

Yet his story, of course, is more than that. Enoch Powell was right. Housman the scholar was also Housman the poet. The sad, short poems of *The Shropshire Lad* were best sellers in his lifetime and as Page reminds us, they enjoyed a revealing, second life in the early enthusiasm of 1914-15. Melancholy, yet romantic, they were written during the Boer War and caught a popular mood in the later war which so brutally refuted them. They owe very little to Shropshire, which Housman seldom visited. To outsiders, he has become a "local poet," a grotesque misreading. Housman's wonderful poems owe much to his love and knowledge of Greek, the subject which his textual work avoided. To me, they are in no sense "minor."

The split talent of the meticulous scholar and the romantic poet, is fascinating. In lesser forms, we all come across it; and as a short, manageable study, Norman Page's book is compelling. He tends to count opinions and agree with the majority, while Housman would have mangled his style. He would also have relished the book's unlucky appearance, so soon after the more and less sober study by R. P. Graves.

Mr Graves penetrated the ice of Cambridge's Polar Star. He published Housman's notes on a holiday in France in which masculine figures like sailor boxer or Negro were noted in French with a number from one to ten beside each day in a fortnight.

We know about Housman's early idol, Moses Jackson; we suspected Andrea, the Venetian gondolier. This note enlarges Housman's passions beyond good food, travel and scholarship. Mr Page disagrees. Housman's holidays, he states, were spent "pottering around small cathedral towns where this variety of pleasure must have been hard, if not impossible, to come by." I wish we had Housman's retort to such naivety.



Alexander Fleming: research that became famous

Drug discoverer

BY GEORGE MALCOLM THOMSON

Alexander Fleming: The Man and the Myth
by Gwyn Macfarlane. Chatto and Windus. £12.50. 304 pages

A good biography—and this life of Sir Alexander Fleming is a good one, highly professional, the work of a medical expert who can write—is like a good salad. All the better for a drop or two of vinegar in the dressing. It is not that Gwyn Macfarlane is consciously unfair to Fleming: on the contrary, he leans over backwards to hold the scale even.

Only here and there, does he betray a touch of caution, a suspicion that Fleming has been given more than his proper share of the credit for penicillin. Macfarlane has written a biography of Howard Florey; it is subtitled "The Making of a Great Scientist". His biography of Fleming is called "The Man and the Myth". A slight difference.

One thing is not in doubt: Fleming did "discover" penicillin in 1929. There is no myth about that. He invented the name. He suggested that it would be an important germ-killer. If he left to others, Florey, Chain and a team at Oxford, the task of making it a practical therapeutic agent capable of cheap production and use on a large scale, the reason seems to be, Macfarlane thinks, that Fleming found that it was slow-working and unstable. Naturally the propaganda centred on Fleming who wrote to Florey two letters of disavowal but was swept away by the tide. He did not seem to have earned the Nobel Prize but he was honest and human enough to admit that he enjoyed the adulation even if it was not all deserved.

In the end justice was done. Fleming, Florey and Chain shared the Nobel Prize. Florey got a life peerage and the O.M. But he and his team felt bitter that so much of the early glory had gone to Fleming. There are traces of this feeling in Macfarlane's biography. After all, he is an emeritus professor of Pathology of Oxford.

What would have happened had Fleming been a publicity-grabber, a showman not to say a charlatan? Instead, he was a modest, unpretentious man who loved to escape from the limelight to a game of snooker in the Chelsea Arts Club.

Naturally, Fleming got to hear of the hope that was dawning at Oxford. He paid a visit: "I've

come to see what you've been doing with my old penicillin." It was thought to be a somewhat proprietorial remark but, as Macfarlane points out, it was quite natural in the circumstances. Penicillin was Fleming's. But, sad to say, scientists are human and sensitive; when they are in the throes of a great research, they are abnormally sensitive; jealous even.

Between the Dunn School, Oxford, and St Mary's Hospital, London, there were the makings of a classical scientific feud. Even so, all might have gone well had it not been for the world surge of publicity about the new "wonder drug." This was launched by Sir Archibald Wright and Lord Moran, both anxious that St Mary's would get due credit. Moran, Churchill's doctor, Beaverbrook's friend, had powerful guns and knew how to use them.

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In this engrossing book which treads the narrow path between the popular and the medical, Professor Macfarlane lists the honours conferred on Fleming. One honour he does not mention which is known to have pleased Fleming greatly. After all, he is an emeritus professor of Pathology of Oxford.

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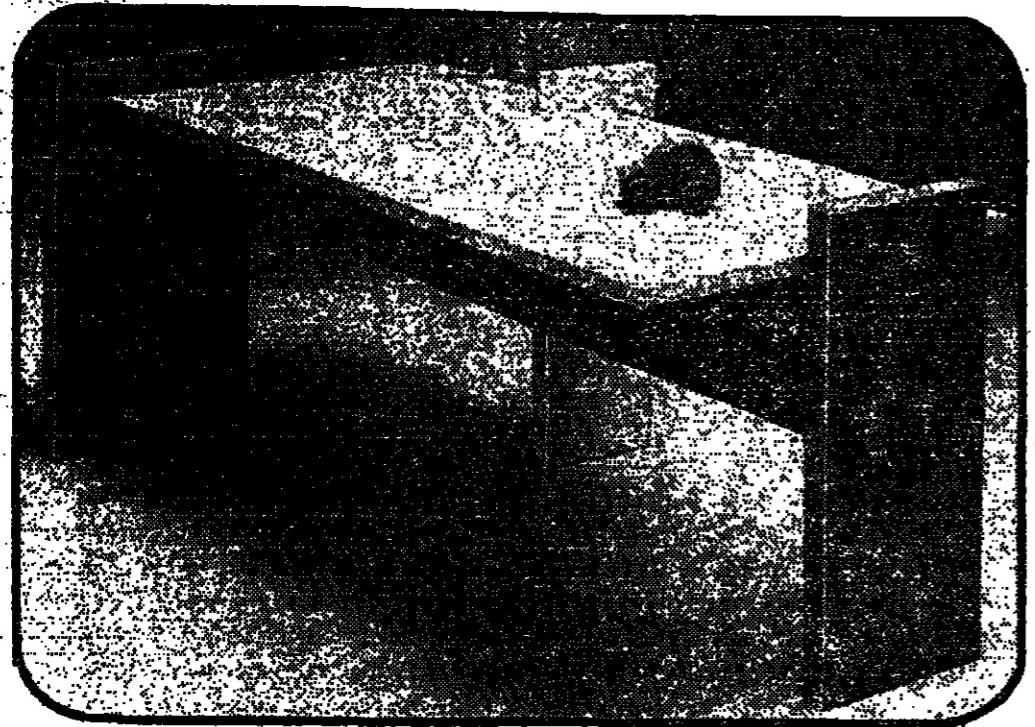
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In the end justice was done. Fleming, Florey and Chain shared the Nobel Prize. Florey got a life peer

Going to work in the home office



Danilo Silvestrin's "Homage to Mondrian" desk

The Desk

FOR ANYBODY who does any kind of work at home, the first essential is a desk. This doesn't mean, however, that you have to go out and look only at furniture bearing the label "desk". One of the simplest, most practical and inexpensive ways of making a flat surface is to buy a pair of trestle legs and a piece of chipboard or Formica (or even glass) to lay on top.

CubeStore of 58 Pembridge Road, London W8 (tel. 01-994 6016 for leaflets) about whom I've written before, still makes and sells its splendidly sturdy trestle legs but whereas it just used to do them in white (£25), chrome (£30) and aluminium (£24) it now offers them in yellow, green and red as well (all at £25). With a pair of these trestles you can either buy the white melamine top that CubeStore offers (18 mm thick, 54 in by 30 in for £2.50)

or you can buy a panel door, solid timber or a piece of glass cut to size.

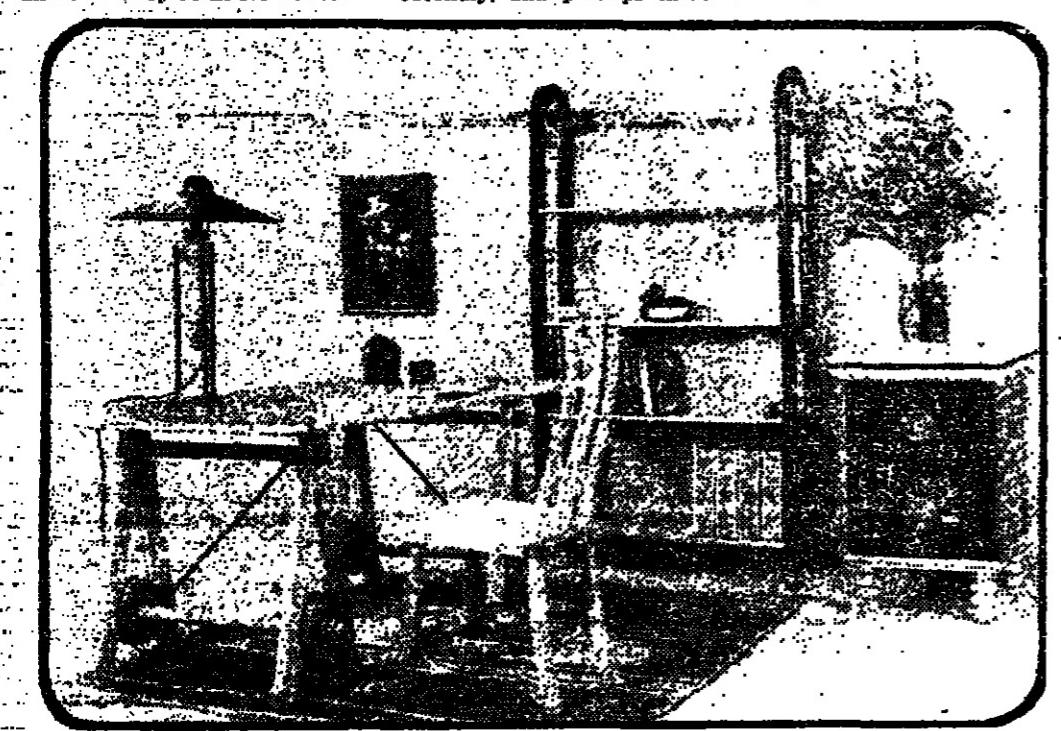
If you don't like the idea of trestles you can balance the working surface on filing cabinets or on those marvellous six-drawer plan chests that can still be found in secondhand furniture shops.

Cheaper still are the red or blue metal trestles that Habitat sells at £19.95 the pair—to go with them there are melamine tops (2 cms by 138 cms by 67 cms) edged in matching red or blue for just £9.95. If you can afford a bit more the Habitat dining table, the Quarto, has clean elegant lines, gives a good working area and is available in either plain oak or oak stained black with steel cylindrical legs. At £185 they're a good buy—they also make an elegant dining table.

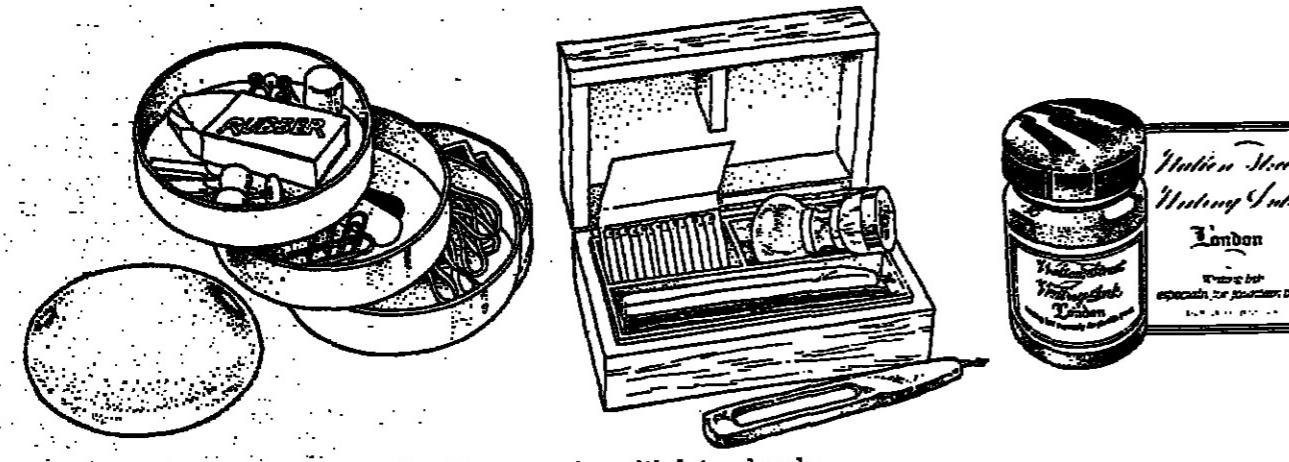
Johnny Grey, whose Home Office Collection I have written about before, is worth another mention for two reasons. Firstly, I think that the furniture he has produced really does achieve his aim of looking at ease in a domestic setting and yet at the same time offers the possibilities of efficient organisation of working material. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, his prices have been reduced by 40 per cent since I last wrote about the collection. This doesn't mean they are now cheap—the wood is mainly solid ash, the knobs and handles are all hand-turned, the attention to detail is evident when you see it in close-up. The ash trestle table (because the top is reversible just this part is ash veneered) is £375, the adjustable shelving unit is £725, the small pedestal filing cabinet with the vase on it is £509 while the black spun metal and red steel lamp is £182. All inquiries to Johnny Grey Design, Hampshire Farm, South Harting, Petersfield, Hants.

If your mood is modern, then one of the most desirable desks I have come upon recently is the one shown above with the rather pompous name of "Homage to Mondrian". Designed by Danilo Silvestrin, it is its proportions and colouring which make it so desirable—the "modesty panel" in black while the three uprights are in red, blue and yellow. It measures 190 cms by 113 cms by 83 cms and costs £529 (exclusive of VAT) from Aram Designs, 3 Kean Street, Covent Garden, London, WC2.

Secondly, and perhaps more



Johnny Grey's Home Office collection



Small accessories with lots of style

Self-contained

EXPENSIVE, BUT it looks it. A portable mini-desk, below left, for the writing of letters, for £58. The box itself comes only in black but inside the various containers are 100 sheets of A4 Stationery Company £2.50 p+p.

Desk Details

I DON'T KNOW about you but I take an almost childlike pleasure in all the small office paraphernalia. Stationery shops have now become some of the most dashing shops in town.

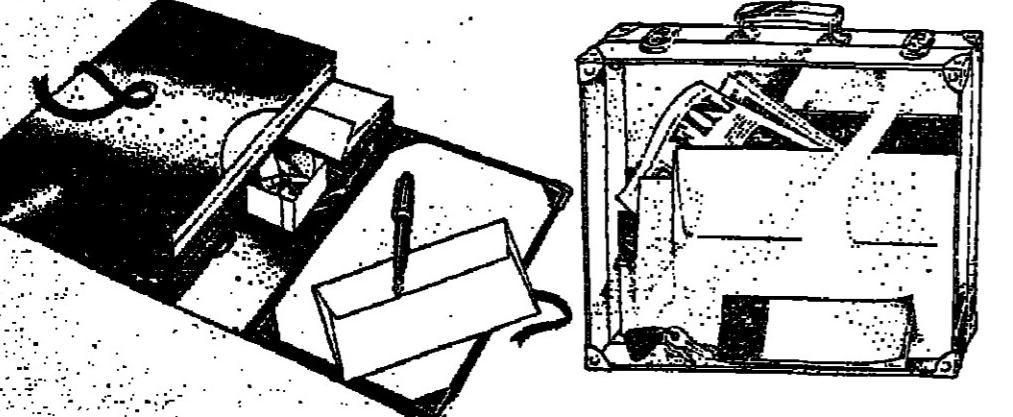
Even those with the most efficient home offices sometimes have to go a-visiting. Carry your papers in this elegant see-through briefcase. A splendidly useful size, 17 ins long, 13½ ins deep, it comes in see-through acrylic—blue, red, clear, smoke.

£74.95 from The Walton Street Stationery Company, 97 Walton Street, London SW3.

An exquisite small mahogany box (5½ in x 3½ in x 2 in) holding everything the old-fashioned letterwriter, who likes to seal his letters, would cherish. At £29 it would make a marvellous present.

The set includes three sticks of wax, a seal with up to three initials and a small packet of matches. The wax comes in a choice of white, black, green, red, gold, silver or violet; the handle of the seal is rosewood. From The Walton Street Stationery Company, 97 Walton Street, London SW3. Can be posted for 60p extra.

For pen users the Walton Street Stationery Company, typically, produces its own ineffably elegant container for its blue, black, burgundy, brown or green ink made exclusively from vegetable dyes. £2.50 bottle (p+p 50p).



Portable writing set and a see-through briefcase

ALL OF US need some kind of working space at home. Whether we just have to cope with answering letters and our household bills or whether we need space to help run a small business, it all needs very careful planning.

Jose Manser, a freelance design journalist who works from home, has learned the hard way that making the working area as attractive as possible is very important. "I have a very functional office which works very well but I often think I'd get much more pleasure from sitting here day after day if it was prettier. My desk is a huge long table so that I can leave the separate projects I'm working on in separate piles. I got a handyman to make a long flat surface which has bull-nosed edging all round and is covered in matt laminate. It rests on four trestles and a filing cabinet. My typewriter rests on the L-shaped surface, shelves behind me hold the filing system so I just have to turn round to reach them."

"Seating is also very important. I sit on a perfectly functional old standard Ryman's typing chair but what I would really like is a Hille Supporto chair—it is absolutely beautiful, comes in lovely colours (you can have sand-coloured upholstery and a pale green

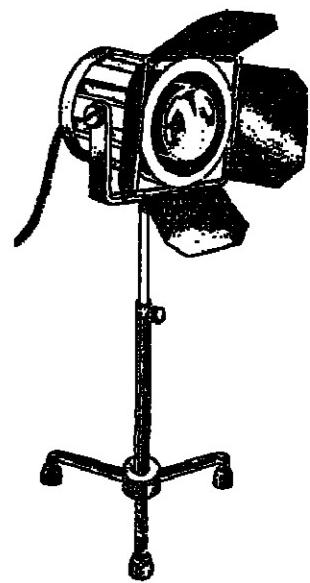
frame) and is extremely comfortable."

Certainly it can never have been easier to buy accessories that not only do the job but also look pretty while they're at it. Everything from the pin, the paper clip and the tin-tack to the filing cabinet has been recoloured and re-styled—this year I see Ryman's famous filing cabinets are sporting sugar-pink and sky-blue coats.

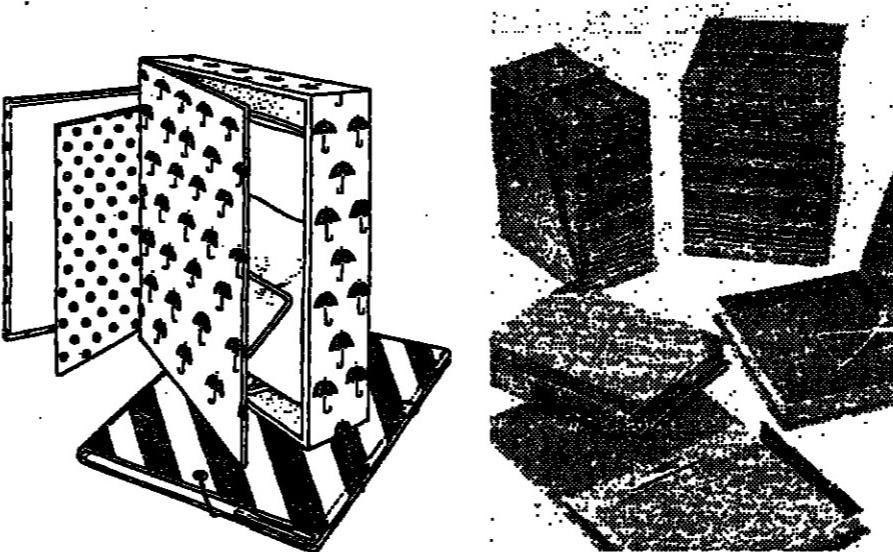
All this colour around the place not only helps to jolly up the look of filing systems and the desk-top but it actually is useful if it's used in a properly co-ordinated coded way.

If you're looking for a very inexpensive storage system CubeStore (the company which does the trestle legs referred to in the section on desks) also does a very versatile and inexpensive storage system—it is what it sounds like, a series of cubes based on the 16-in module with different internal fittings which can be built up and added onto as your storage needs grow. A simple open cube with no internal fittings is £13.95, while one with three S drawers is £22.15. Write to 58 Pembridge Road, London W8 for the Cube-Box leaflets.

Illustrated on the rest of the page are some of the brightest and best new ideas around at the moment.



The Hollywood light



Files to suit your mood—smart, traditional or sturdy

The Filing System

FILES are yet another area that has been transformed by the clever designer's hand. They, too, are now so invitingly coloured, patterned and presented that choosing them is as much a pleasure as accessorising an outfit. Apart from the fact that they are so much prettier or smarter to look at nowadays, anybody who has a great deal of serious filing to do on many subjects can pick and choose a colour-coded system to make it easier to find what is wanted when it is wanted.

Above left is a simple ring binder file in a smart white with black spots design. It measures 10 in by 12½ ins, costs £3.45 and is just one of the many designs in this particular style—it happens to coordinate beautifully with the equally smart black and white diagonally striped document wallet with elasticated corners that sell for £2.99. Both come from a large selection at Scribbler, 170 Kings Road, London SW3; 29 James Street, London WC2; and 27 Kings Road, London SW3.

The box file with pale pink or blue umbrellas all over it, is £3.99 from W. H. Smith.

For those who prefer a more

classical answer to the same whom this will be the perfect solution is Bookbox, above centre, problem Bookbox, above right.

Each box may be personalised with your own name in special gold-foil lettering. From Unirose (the company that delivers a single rose, a bottle of champagne or endless other goodies to any address you choose), it is designed to make the staid old filing system look like an elegant old library.

It is unblushingly frank about its aims, "Bookbox," says the press release, "is in the classical style of a handsome library edition" combining the advantages of an efficient, neat and tidy filing system with the elegance of an antique volume." So it does—until you look closely, but never mind, there will be many for

Spreyton, Crediton, Devon (Tel. Whiddon Down 526).

Right one of the sturdiest

small personal filing systems I've seen. Not a thing of elegance but immensely practical. The file has a fold-down front which makes it much easier to rummage among the folders. There are 10 suspension files with ready-made indexes. It would make a splendid starting system for a young person embarking on life alone for the first-time (we've given one each to our undergraduate children and it seems to have brought some order into their lives). In red, blue or grey, it is £18.95 from most W. H. Smith branches.

ONCE UPON A TIME the lighting scene in your average shop was a depressing sight. Today the choice is large. You can go into Woolworth, British Home Stores, the Habitat chain and be sure to find something well-made and well thought-out at a very reasonable price.

A good light source is obviously vital to the home office and a track system is one good solution. (Jose Manser, a freelance design journalist, has a long L-shaped desk with storage behind and she uses a track with three spots—one is trained upon the L of her desk on to the typewriter, one upon the desk itself and one upon the desk itself and one upon the desk itself.)

I am a great supporter of the classic Anglepoise which can still be bought at about £15.95 in larger Woolworth stores. Less classic but a lot of fun is the Hollywood light (so-called for obvious reasons)—in red or black it takes only a 40 watt bulb so it shouldn't be your only light source (somebody I know has two, one at either end of his desk and says it works a treat). About 1 ft high, it is £29.95 (bulb is £1.50 extra, plug 85p) from The Last Detail, 341, King's Road, London, SW3 (p+p £1.50).

Drawings: Frank Wheeler

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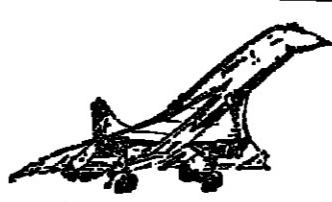


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Dynamic duos

The new lot of *Barnes's People* began on Wednesday on Radio 3. These are to be dialogues, and the opener, observing the former tradition of star casting as well as star writing, had Joan Plowright and Paul Scofield. Miss Plowright was confessing her sins to Mr Scofield, and mentioned that her unbelieving son said the world was made of mouldy cheese. Mr Scofield, until then quiet and formal, was suddenly enthusiastic. 'Mouldy cheese! why, this was a classical heresy, the obscure heretic of meachionism. And the angels were worms that bred in the cheese.' Mr Scofield so loved his heresy that he seemed to embrace it himself — a trial for Miss Plowright's faith.

Peter Barnes writes so well, with such a blend of humour and inventive conviction, that in 20 minutes he fills his canvas with the most wonderful grotesques. The playing on Wednesday was all you expect from those two players, Ian Catterall was the director. Next week: Mary Ellis and Ian McKellen in a Russian prison-cell.

More ordinary eccentricities come in *Legal, Decent, Honest and Truthful*, six programmes written by Guy Jenkins and Jon Canter. These are advertising people, the only creative writers before they can fool others. *Persevere* others. I mean, though in this programme Ken and Sandy devote such work as they do to persuading the public that their copy is legal, decent, etc.

RADIO

B. A. YOUNG

even when they know it isn't. And Mr Canter is an advertising man himself.

There's a sit-com basis of no special charm or originality, full of stereotypes; but now and then we hear commercial voiceovers commenting on what's going on, and some of these are not only funny but make a practical criticism of today's advertising standards. Hats off to producer Peter Atkin, by the way, for doing without a studio audience.

On Sunday as I waited for Part 2 of *The Fountain Of Youth* on Radio 4, I caught the first of six readings from *Neil Boyd* about the private life of Neil Boyd about the private life of Jesus before he became a public



Abolition of the GLC could mean the end of sponsored events like this, by the ENO at Ford's, Dagenham

Local funding—in search of a lifeline

It is often said that there are no votes in the arts. This is regrettably true. But, to balance this, the minority that believes in the arts is very noisy indeed and well placed to put its views directly to ministers and, indeed, to the Prime Minister. The Heath government got into a dreadful mess when it attempted to raise £1 million in revenue by introducing administration charges for museums and art galleries, and retreated ingloriously.

It is to be hoped that the current "government" is wiser. The abolition of the GLC, and the six other metropolitan councils, creates the biggest financial crisis the arts have faced in the UK, not one of those meaningless exaggerated scares so loved by arts companies that feel hard done by, but a real crisis. For the seven councils are contributing almost £30 million to the arts this year, a seemingly irreplaceable sum.

The Government has agreed to step in and provide cash for the most important arts groups that derive sizeable subsidy from the axed councils. The National Theatre, the English National Opera, London Festival Ballet, the London Orchestral Concerts Board (the four big

London orchestras), the Royal Exchange, Manchester, Opera North and the three leading regional orchestras, the Hallé, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the City of Birmingham are the nine organisations to be given a lifeline. Presumably, the Arts Council will be used to channel the extra money to support them—it will need around £12m a year.

In addition five museums, Kenwood, Horniman and Gefen in London, Walker in Liverpool and Laing in Newcastle, have been tied to national trusts (with no great enthusiasm on either side). All told the Government has committed itself in this way to finding around half the £20 million. Its original hope was that the local authorities would make good the gap, a very pious hope given rate capping and the general squeeze on local government funding.

Now it is accepted that the local councils will be unable to do it all, or even very much, particularly in London where the GLC gives almost £20m to the arts. The Minister for the Arts Lord Gowrie, helped perhaps by the fact that he is also a Treasury Minister, is confident that the Government will be able to find more money. But the Council is in favour of a

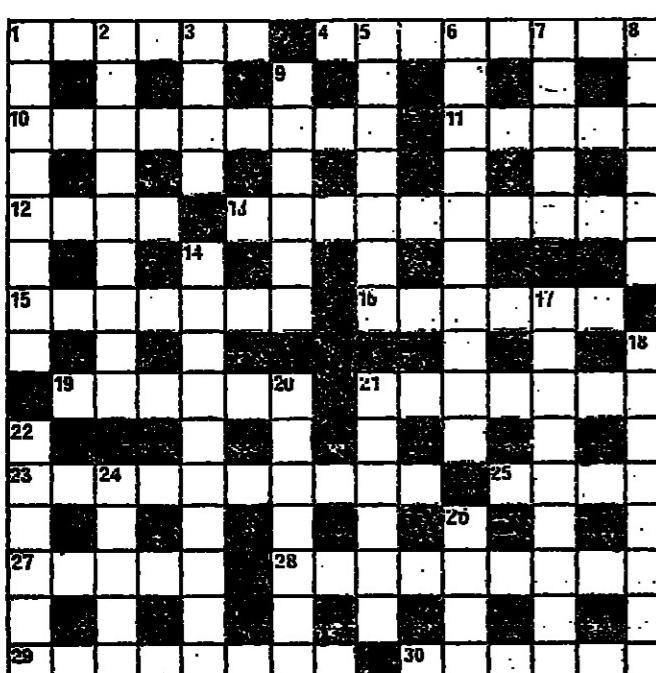
variety of paymasters: a sudden increase in its powers would bring an increase in its problems. It might, however, be used as a channel, passing on money to the regional arts associations which have improved their efficiency in recent years.

But although extra money has been promised there are many immediate problems, especially in London. The original idea that the South Bank concert halls can be made commercially viable is a nonsense, given that they currently need a subsidy of almost £1m a year.

There is no way in which Hammersmith, for example, is going to meet the losses of Riverside Studios, or Islington of Sadlers Wells. It might not matter if many of the famous hobby horses of Mr Livingstone's London, such as the See Red Women's Workshop (given over £36,000 this year) or Docklands Community Poster Project (funded with £45,000) loss out, but there are dozens of worthwhile artistic ventures that face a financial challenge that will be too much for them. Assurances on finance, on the method of its administration and on the scope of the rescue need to be announced as soon as possible.

ANTONY THORNCROFT

F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 5.340



A prize of £10 will be given to each of the senders of the first three correct solutions opened. Solutions must be received by next Thursday, marked Crossword in the top left-hand corner of the envelope, and addressed to the Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, London EC4P 4BY. Winners and solution will be given next Saturday.

Name
Address

ACROSS
1 English corporal eg. joins sappers—but not for the first time? (6)
4 Blunt criticism of good all-rounders having to get runs (8)
10 Strange Welsh rite formerly (9)
11 Labiate that could be semi-methylated (5)
12 Convertible bonnet? (4)
13 Lab-test for Dracula? (5)
15 The most stony in comfortable residence (7)
16 Intended to be in cafe by appointment (6)
19 Operating space-bar, etc (6)
21 Leap joyfully, and in part, bring a lump here (7)
23 Man of the match? (10)
25 Everybody to ring the sustenance (4)
27 Concerning a boxing-match (15)
28 ... Anne Bronte's alternative instruction to boxer (5, 4)
29 Shots in which England's openers failed badly (8)
30 Only a moderate horse, but could show power in future (8)

Solution to Puzzle No. 5.339

DOWN
1 Jumbo plane, the design... (8)
2 ... that cannot fly, making civil aviation leaders so cautious (8)
3 Ranks swore endlessly when beating a retreat (4)

t Indicates programming in black and white

BBC 1

8.35 am Godzilla, 9.00 Saturday Superstore.

12.25 pm Grandstand: including The XIV Winter Olympic Games (12.30, 4.15), Football Focus (1.40), Racing from Newbury (1.35, 1.55, 2.35, 3.05), Cricket: Third Test (1.40), World Bowls (2.10), Professional Boxing (2.50), Rugby League Preview (3.20), Rugby League (3.30, 3.55), Final Score (4.40).
5.05 News.
5.15 Regional Variations.
5.20 The Rod and Emu Show.
5.35 Jim'll Fix It.
6.30 The Action Film: "The Gumball Rally" starring Michael Sarrazin, Norman Burton, Raul Julia, Gary Busey.
8.15 The Les Dawson Show.
9.05 News and Sport.
9.09 The Odd Job Man: A serial in three parts by N. J. Crisp.
9.30 Wogan.

12.00-1.30 am Late Night Horror: "Legend of the Werewolf" starring Peter Cushing.

REGIONAL VARIATIONS:

Wales—5.15-5.20 pm Sports News, Wales.
Scotland—12.15-5.05 pm As Grandstand (BBC1) except 3.20-3.30, 4.35-4.15 World Bowls. 5.15-5.25 Scoreboard. 10.40-12.00 Sportscene: Olympic Special: Northern Ireland News. 4.30-5.05 pm Northern Ireland Results. 5.15-5.20 Northern Ireland News.
England—5.15-5.20 pm London Sport: South West (Plymouth) Spotlight Sport: All other regions—Sport/Regional News.

BBC 2

6.25 am-3.10 pm Open University.

3.10 Stars of the Silent Screen: Buster Keaton in "College".
4.15 Play Away.

4.45 The Sky at Night.

5.00 Saturday Cinema: Luis Bunuel's "Robinson Crusoe".

6.25 Glaciers.

6.50 Sight and Sound in Context: The Bonniwell Rate.

7.20 News and Sport.

7.45 Cricket: The Test.

8.15 The Life and Times of Don Luis Bunuel.

9.30 C. P. Snow: "Strangers and Brothers".

10.45 The Weather in the Streets Preview.

10.50 News.

10.55 World Bowls.

11.40-1.25 am "The First Polka" starring Maria Schell, Erland Josephson.

LONDON

6.25 am TV-am Breakfast Programme. 9.25 LWT Information.

9.30 Sesame Street. 10.30 The Saturday Show.

12.15 pm World of Sport—12.20 Athletics; 12.45 News; 12.50 On the Ball; 1.20 Boxing; 1.40 Racing; 1.55 Pool; 2.10 Racing; 2.25 Pool; 2.45 Racing; 3.00 Pool; 3.45 Half-time Soccer Round-up; 4.00 Wrestling; 4.45 Results.

5.00 News.

5.35 Franglais Rock.

5.35 The Fall Guy.

6.30 Child's Play.

7.00 3-2-1.

8.00 T. J. Hooker.

9.00 News.

9.15 "Farewell My Lovely" starring Robert Mitchum and Charlotte Rampling.

11.00 London News Headlines followed by Rock Concert Chaka Khan Live.

12.00 Best of Saturday Night Live and Night Thoughts.

CHANNEL 4

2.05 pm Make It Pay.

2.35 Hold That Ghost (Abbott and Costello).

4.10 Three Stooges: Ants in the Pantry.

4.35 Skateaway with Robin Cousins.

5.05 Brookside.

6.00 No Problem!

6.30 The Other Side of the Tracks.

7.30 News, followed by Union World.

8.00 Twenty Two Vision.

8.30 Royal Shakespeare Company in Newcastle.

9.30 The Avengers.

10.35 The Comic Strip presents...

11.35 "Kiss of Death" starring Victor Mature.

TYME TEES

9.25 am Morning Glory. 9.30 Special: 9.35 The Flying Kite. 10.25 TT.

5.40 pm Knight Rider. 11.00 The Roots of Rock 'n' Roll. 11.05 Journey to the Unknown.

12.00 pm Postscript.

TVS

9.25 pm Waterloo. 9.35 The Week in Pictures.

10.00 pm Knight Rider. 11.00 Money Box.

11.30 pm Comedy Tonight.

12.00 pm The Chip Shop.

BBC RADIO LONDON

7.30 am Good Fishing. 8.00 London Today. 8.30-9.00 London Tonight. 9.00-10.00 BBC Radio 2.

10.22 pm Knight Rider. 11.00 The Roots of Rock 'n' Roll. 11.05 Journey to the Unknown.

12.00 pm Postscript.

1.00 pm News.

2.00 pm Knight Rider.

3.00 pm Knight Rider.

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4.

When the postman joins your bottle party

BY EDMUND PENNING-ROWSELL

MOST WINES bought for home consumption in this country may be assumed to have been acquired off the shelf. If our per capita consumption of less than a dozen bottles a year is scarcely impressive, it is a good deal more than it was 10 years or so ago, and the increase has coincided with the great development of the High Street wine outlets.

After all, Sainsbury's now claims to be Britain's biggest wine merchant, with 15 per cent of the trade, and it has its rivals along the road, some of them wine-group stores. Moreover it is generally agreed that the growth in wine consumption is the result of more people drinking wine rather than people drinking more wine.

It might be thought, therefore, that the traditional stockholding wine merchants are now of diminished importance compared with what they were a generation ago. But this is not certain. First, there are many more of them (some, however, very small) and secondly they are much more enterprising.

Whereas the off-licence shopper may walk out with a couple of bottles, the order of the wine merchant's customer is likely to be more like two dozen. The average order of one retail firm with which I am familiar comes to about £70, and the customer's annual expenditure with that firm alone is around £250. Some central London wine merchants may well show higher figures. And it is basically done by the quality of their wine selection, and its promotion is by means of attractive periodical catalogues distributed by mail.

None are the days when the

main business was done over a glass of brown sherry or madeira in the partners' parlour.

What then, are the requirements of a list that is likely to attract the attention of a sophisticated wine-drinking public infinitely better informed about the wines of the world than its predecessors?

Obviously a wide range of wines is of prime importance, and today that is likely to include Australian and California. Moreover there should be, where necessary and possible, some editorial comment and description, giving the impression that the firm knows what it is about, buys well and helps the customer to make what is inevitably a difficult choice among many unknown wine names.

Price must be a factor, and there the competition with the High Street is severe. For while the latter has rents and shop assistants to pay, the traditional merchants have cellars and warehouses, cellar and dispatch staff, including in most cases vans, as well as capital locked up in vintage wines, which essentially is where they score over the off-licences. And whatever the delivery terms are, there is likely to be an on-cost of over £3 a case on each dispatch to their customers.

Finally, the circulated lists and special offers that may supplement them should exhibit some style and individuality in design and presentation.

Accordingly, how do some of our leading firms show up in this respect just now? High on the list is the attractively laid-out 80-page A4 catalogue of Lay & Wheeler of Colchester. With

an exceptionally large range, it is highly informative but definitely for the wine amateur. Who else would buy the by-name inexpensive '82 Bâtard-Montrachet, which bears the comment, "It would be infinitesimal to drink yet. Leave five years."

The only off-putting, complicated factor in the list is whether cash-and-carry or credit terms are accepted, with or without VAT. Surely the former can be simplified and those customers who can pass on the tax be negotiated with separately?

The prices exclusive of VAT are the chief fault in Corney & Barrow's elegant, tall, narrow annual list, and it is by no means easy to discover this fact.

No doubt many of their City of London customers are VAT-refundees, and are accustomed to making the necessary deductions. But it is very hard on the other customers and is misleading. Otherwise a most informative, well-written list, especially of claret, with a personal touch.

So, indeed, has the large-sized list of Adnams of Southwold, with posed pictures of the staff and favoured wine suppliers. Written by its director, Simon Lutris, who did not endear himself last year to the Bordeaux trade by his comments on the marketing of the 1982 vintage, it exudes confidence in the quality of the wines he has to offer, and not without some reason. It also contains some VAT and non-VAT price complications.

A special welcome must be given to the new list of O. W. Voleb of Jermyn Street, SW1. Previously for many years its narrow-format list was about as austere as one of those trocken German wines which fortunately they do not include in their hors-concours list of wines from that country. Comments have been introduced, mostly on a vintage basis, and emphasising its sole agencies, the list gives the reader a feeling of confidence in the wines offered. VAT is now included.

Another recently changed list



is Henry Townsend's of Amersham. Formerly set in type-writer style, it is now printed in what may be called a relaxed layout, suiting the generally rather up-market wines and spirits it includes.

By traditional standards the order is odd, with champagne at the beginning, and claret, in which the firm specialises, in the second half.

Conventional wine lists are expensive to produce, and the type-written ones are not in

themselves to be despised, as space and length can be saved.

Green's of the Royal Exchange, EC3, have crammed a great deal into 45 pages, even if the useful notes on districts and vintages are too small to be easy on the eye. And their prices are also ex-VAT. The contents of the typed list of La Vigneronne of Old Brompton Road, SW7, has an impressively wide range, but the uninformed than its neighbour's in St James's Street, Berry Bros, whose almost totally unannotated list demands a visit to its premises: Laymon & Shaw of Truro, whose dedication to Spanish wines results in a very informative list, particularly of Riojas; and Roger Harris of Weston Longville, Norfolk, who is no less dedicated to beaujolais as the exceptional range shows.

In the article on wine tastings published on January 28 it was unfortunately necessary to cut the final paragraph on the tasting of 1959 clarets, thus giving a somewhat false impression of the results. What was omitted was the following:

The Paullacs and St-Juliens showed to be the best preserved, and for the former about 20 professionals and wine writers gave top marks to the Mouton Rothschild, Pichon Baron and Lafite. In that order. (The Latour may not have been the best of bottles.) The leading St-Juliens were Léoville-Poyferré, Léoville-Las-Cases, Ducru-Beaucaillou and Beychevelle. The two other leading wines were Palmer and Haut-Brion. Possessors of precious bottles of this vintage should seek occasions to drink them.

Dai Hayward in New Zealand

Off the record

AS THE final Test between New Zealand and England gets underway in Auckland, the joy over the Kiwis' great victory has not died down. Nothing can spoil the euphoria — among cricket fans and even those sports enthusiasts who regard cricket as a rather pleasant but unimportant summer interlude between two Rugby seasons.

But the joy is coupled with anger and frustration about the television coverage. For, as eight England wickets crashed at Lancaster Park, Christchurch last Sunday, television screens were showing an old country.

New Zealand captain Geoff Howarth and his players certainly glorified in their win. "Fantastic," "a memorable day," "I feel full of pride," were typical reactions from team members.

The victory was all the sweeter because before this series began there was some undignified and destructive public squabbling between several members of the team. There were differences publicly aired by Howarth and Richard Hadlee.

Early in the season it seemed this bickering could affect the performance of the team on the field, but their play in the first Test, and then the great performance at Lancaster Park, showed that all the differences had been resolved in the interests of winning.

The high team spirit was reflected in the way New Zealand came back on the ropes, when England's bowlers appeared to be on top to take convincing wins.

With his eight wickets for only 44 runs in the two innings, and the solid 98 runs with the bat, Richard Hadlee is being toasted as the king of New Zealand cricket. But the public and Press have been lavish in their tributes and praise of the other ten players.

England captain Bob Willis has been called a bad loser after his criticism of the state of the pitch. As Richard Hadlee said, echoed by most New Zealanders, the ground was the same for both teams.

New Zealand need only to draw to win the series, but they are going all-out to repeat last week's victory.

The odds must be in their favour.

Sarajevo... by Arthur Sandles

Magic on the bob-run

THE TWO-MAN bobsleigh race completed today in Sarajevo is, at most Winter Olympics just a side show—albeit an expensive and exhilarating one. But not this year.

Once the province of the rich and famous and the military, the sport has now moved into the hands of the science laboratories. The result has been a flurry of arguments about the Soviet Union's remarkable new bob, the withdrawal of the Americans and Swiss attempts at replicas after accidents, and the prospect, now diminished, of East Germany's stranglehold on the event being broken.

But remember, the USSR was beaten by another under-rated local team at Lake Placid in 1932—the Americans.

This Olympics has yet to produce its hero. At Lake Placid the honours were shared between Britain's Robin Cousins and the American speed skater Eric Heiden. So one of the fun games over the next few days will be spotting the winner of this year's popularity crown.

Clearly Torvill and Dean must be the favourites in 1984, and this is not just British chauvinism. The UK couple are getting considerable attention world-wide, denying romance and paving their way to a lucrative professional career, once the Olympics are over.

There are, however, rivals for the crown of Olympic favourites among the women skiers. The women's giant slalom on Monday and its tight-gated Special Slalom on Friday both contain interesting competitors. There is potential for one skier to win both events—if it were the pretty French girl Perrine Pelein this would do wonders for that nation's lowered ski morale.

A more likely contender is America's diminutive Tamara McKinney. If the double goes anywhere it is much more likely to land in the experienced hands of Switzerland's Erika Hess.

Somehow I do not see the Russian two-man bob team being the glamourous heroes. Perhaps the engineer who designed their sledge should be.

BY JUNE FIELD

ONLY RECENTLY have collectors become aware of the attraction of the original work of illustrators. That is, the original drawing or watercolour by the artist for a newspaper, magazine, or book which is not a print or reproduction.

Yet if it was not for the illustrators, how could we visualise Billy Bunter, Winnie-the-Pooh or Angela Brazil's *New Girl At St Chad's*?

The appeal of illustrations of all periods is considerable, embracing as they do such a diversity of talent. But traditionally, illustrations have mainly been the province of antiquarian book dealers, who often tuck them away in a portfolio in the back of the shop. As one dealer commented, displaying them is a problem.

Watercolour specialists have fairly recently taken on the big names of the Victorian period—John Leech, Arthur Rackham, Walter Crane and so on—but in general they fight shy of 20th century illustrators.

Author Simon Houfe is probably the most notable collector and researcher of illustrations generally, his interest initially stirred after he inherited the library of his grandfather, architect Sir Albert Richardson.

An essential guide for beginners and experts is Houfe's masterpiece of documentation *The Dictionary of British Book Illustrators and Caricaturists 1800-1914*, published by the

Antique Collectors' Club in 1978.

The advice given for identifying a book illustration is particularly pertinent, explaining as it does the distinction between a genuine drawing for illustration and a genre drawing.

"The illustration tends to be more highly defined, more expressive in action and to contain details relative to the story which a more painterly approach would not have included."

He reminds us that the riddle is usually resolved by the small scale of some illustrations, two by three inches or six by four-and-a-half inches. No genre painter would wish to work to those measurements if he were not engaged on a book.

Dr Chris Beetles is a collector-cum-dealer of some 10 years, who has created a gallery on the first floor of his home, specialising in watercolours and books of the 18th and 20th centuries, with particular emphasis on illustrations.

"This is the market, which even though still undervalued, is really sparkling now, appealing to a whole new generation of collectors."

Customers vary from an American millionaire who buys up all the Rackhams and Dulacs to those who are happy with an Ernest Shepherd sketch for A. A. Milne's *Where the Doormouse and the Doctor at Eddins*, or a Frank Reynolds *Punch* 1897 pen and ink at £100. (Dr Beetles has a large collection of Shepherd's work, bought at the artist's studio sale.)

From today until Sunday February 26, Chris Beetles is presenting an exhibition, *The Illustrators—The British Art of Illustration 1780-1980*, at 104, Randolph Avenue, London, W8, open every day 10-5.

The carefully selected display of some 250 works, all for sale, range from a Randolph Caldecott (1846-1886), pencil and sepia wash illustration to *Bracebridge Hall, The Combat on the Village Green*, at £50. to a superb Rackham, *The Pied Paper of Hamelin*, a pen and ink and watercolour, for the 1934 publication by Harrap and Co, at £12,500. Most items are in the £125 range.

The well-researched catalogue is free to callers and by post. Look for the work of C. H. Chapman (Billy Bunter about to tuck into a vast spread), John Hassall (watercolours for Barber's Song Book by Cecile Hartog with words by George Allen, 1900), and some sharply observed vignettes of Hugh Thomson (1860-1920), done for Mrs E. R. Cooke's *Highways and Byways in London*, 1902.

The exhibition is also strong on rare pictures, in which there is currently renewed interest.

(Sparked off, no doubt by the fairytale section in the current Victoria and Albert Museum exhibition *Richard Doyle And His Family*, on until February 26.)

In *The Illustrators* there is an enchanting pen, ink and water-

colour *Bottom and the Fairies in the Wood*, by Helen Jacobs (1858-1970), sister of humorous writer W. W. Jacobs, and one by Florence Anderson, *At Play with the Fairies*, 1917.

Various Batemans, Ardizzone, a Gerard Hoffnung, a Ronald Searle and a Gerald Scarfe provide the cartoon and caricature element of the show.

Indispensable, too, for the collector, is the first comprehensive reference work on 20th-century book illustration in Britain, the *Dictionary of British Book Illustrators—The Twentieth Century*, by Brigid Peppin and Lucy Micklethwait (1988).

Just published by John Murray at £30, it lists over 800 artists, from Joseph Abbey, born 1859, editor of *Chums* during the 1890s, who drew for several of Enid Blyton's books, to Anna Zinkeisen who, in addition to painting society portraits and sculpting, also designed book jackets and magazine covers. Her stylish sketches of women enlivened *The Complete Hostess* by Quaglino, published by Hamish Hamilton in 1935.

The informative dictionary

also reveals the names behind the pseudonyms, such as Cyril Bird, son of the English cricketer Arthur Bird.

Cyril, to avoid confusion with W. Bird (who was actually Jack Butler Yeats) of *Punch*, worked as Fougasse, which meant a type of French explosive noted for its unpredictable performance. He eventually became editor of *Punch* 1848-53 having achieved fame during World War II for his "Careless Talk Costs Lives" series of posters for the Ministry of Information.

It is the middle of the 20th century that needs to be examined.

It is then that parquat comes into its own. In warm sunny weather one can see an effect in a matter of hours and by the following day the weeds may look as if they had been burned.

They are unsightly at this stage but they do not take long to wither away.

Parquat is a nasty poison that needs to be used with care but for garden use it is prepared in granular form, sold as Weed Out. This is the strongest of all lawn weedkillers and is being marketed as a weed killer for grass but is relatively harmless to other plants.

I have found it efficient against couch grass and it has proved useful in getting rid of this in the middle of some clumps of herbaceous perennials but I have not found it much use against fine leaved grasses. It could be compared with the old grass killer dalapon which I used years ago but eventually gave up because I thought it was harming other plants.

Do not be tempted to use any systemic herbicides above the recommended rate. Overdosing may result in too quick a kill of those parts of the plant actually wetted, so preventing the chemical from penetrating more slowly.

Regardless of conditions or

ill-health amongst the favourites there is little point in looking for British names in the winning list. The UK has a very good, if very promising team,

we might look for medals in

twenty years and see no ill effects. Parquat has little effect on forget-me-nots and as I throw old forget-me-not plants around the fruit trees to shed their seeds, I am rewarded with a circle of forget-me-nots in bloom each May-June. It is a cheap and easy way to keep the orchard beautiful.

This leaves the problem of brambles and scrub which can be a serious matter in woodland and wild gardens but should give no trouble at all in more frequently cultivated places. For year I have used one or other of the nettle and brushwood killers which most dealers in horticultural sundries sell and which are usually mixtures of 2, 4, 5-T and 2, 4-D. The first of these has acquired a bad name as there have been suggestions that it may cause infertility, though this has been denied. Nevertheless it was with some relief that I discovered last year that glyphosate will do the job just as efficiently though considerably more slowly. It is most effective if sprayed on to the leaves while they are still young and the brambles or scrubs are still growing fast.

This past two years I have been experimenting with a new herbicide, alleloxydium sodium, which is being marketed as Weed Out. This is the opposite of a lawn weedkiller since it kills grass but is relatively harmless to other plants. I have found it efficient against couch grass and it has proved useful in getting rid of this in the middle of some clumps of herbaceous perennials but I have not found it much use against fine leaved grasses. It could be compared with the old grass killer dalapon which I used years ago but eventually gave up because I thought it was harming other plants.

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the next few days will be spotting the winner of this year's popularity crown.

This turns today's women's downhill into a considerable gamble. If everything goes according to the form book

Germany's Irene Epler will sail home closely followed by Maria Walliser of Switzerland and perhaps Jerry Sorensen of Canada.

But a question mark has been raised over Epler's fitness and the relative ease of the court would not bring out the best in her highly aggressive style. In these circumstances the dark-haired Walliser could snatch the gold.

Saturday February 11 1984

A time for reflection

THE DEATH of Mr Yuri Andropov, President of the Soviet Union, after only 13 months in office has come at a time when there are the first glimmerings of a realisation on both sides that East-West relations have deteriorated so far that they must be improved.

President Reagan signalled last month a new American readiness to talk to the Russians. In a smaller way Mrs Thatcher followed up in her visit to Hungary last week. On the Soviet side Mr Andropov had indicated in his last interview in Pravda that the time might have come for a resumption of dialogue.

Some of the talks on arms control, which were suspended towards the end of last year, are due to begin again. There has also been the opening of the conference on disarmament in Stockholm where Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, had discussions with several of his western counterparts. The climate was beginning marginally to get better.

It has to be said, however, that any improvements were only tentative. It cannot really be taken as much of a breakthrough when the two sides agree to resume talks on mutual force reductions in Europe, since the talks have led nowhere for the last ten years. Equally, none of the conditions which caused the suspension of the talks about intermediate nuclear forces has changed. The Soviet Union continues to deploy more of its SS-20s and may even have brought them forward into eastern Europe. Nato continues its counter-programme of deploying cruise missiles and Pershing 2s. A resumption of the dialogue on the old basis may be better than nothing, but not much.

Judgment

There will now almost certainly be a pause as the Soviet Union picks a new leader who will then have to find his way between the coalition of forces in Moscow: the KGB, the army, and the apparatchiks. There could, and should, also be a pause in western diplomacy. For not only is this a waiting time to see how the new Soviet leadership emerges and the direction it wishes to take; it is also election year in the U.S. when initiatives can be taken for the wrong reason and can be ill-judged. The best course now is to reflect on what went wrong in the past.

Mr Andropov was not in office long enough for there to be any proper judgment on whether he really was a reformer. Certainly in terms of economic management he inclined that way, though there was so far as he could make no great impact in his time. It may be also that on foreign policy he simply inherited the

decisions of his predecessors and was unable to put them into reverse, even if he had wanted to.

Yet, in retrospect, some of the Soviet leaders must see that a major mistake was made in relentlessly deploying the SS-20s on the assumption that somehow the West would cave in and not take counter-measures of its own. There was no subtlety in the Soviet position. If the Russians had introduced a moratorium in their own deployment, it may just have been that the Western response that would have been more conciliatory.

Error

Moscow's error was to watch the peace movements rather than public opinion in general, and it will be an interesting test of the new leadership whether it has learned that lesson.

For a while, however, it is possible to live without arms control. The balance of power between East and West is still such as to make war unlikely, and certainly unprofitable. The more important question is why relations deteriorated so badly. Many Russians, and some West Europeans, would say it was because of the more aggressive attitudes of President Reagan, though it should be remembered that the renewed American emphasis on defence began in the latter stages of Mr Carter's presidency and there were also congressional pressures against the ratification of SALT II. American policy-making is a complex process which the Russians again do not seem fully to understand.

Yet if Mr Reagan is sincere when he suggests that America is again self-confident enough of its own defences to resume negotiations, that is a good sign. American policy tends to move through phases of stressing strength and then peace. It may well be that when the elections are out of the way, the time will be ripe for more substantive talks than for a long time past. Mr Nixon when he was President had an idea of constructing a kind of seamless web of Soviet-American relations in such areas as trade, physics and medicine. That is a thought which could be returned to. For if relations in other spheres were better, it may be that arms control would look after itself.

Whoever emerges as Mr Andropov's successor is unlikely to be able to change very much very quickly. Indeed it is arguable that foreign policy has not changed much since the days of the Tsars. Yet the Soviet Union can be contained and it can keep agreements. The West now needs to watch while being ready to talk in due course.

YURI Vladimirovich Andropov is dead. But the men who engineered his rise to supreme power only 15 months ago are still alive, and so are the powerful Soviet institutions which they represent.

What the world now awaits is evidence that the men who ensured the smoothest transfer of power in Soviet history in November 1982, still have the power and ability to ensure that the succession to Mr Andropov is handled as skillfully as the transition from Mr Brezhnev.

In a way the task is now more difficult. At 68 Mr Andropov was the oldest man by far to become leader of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. He was an interim leader—although the hope was that the interregnum would last five years or so, long enough to bring on a new generation of leaders.

It is always possible that the key power brokers—experienced septuagenarians like Marshal Dmitri Ustinov, the 75-year-old Defence Minister, and 74-year-old Andrei Gromyko, the veteran Foreign Minister—and a small group of other powerful men around the same age, will once again opt for a man of their own generation.

This would ensure that they, too, continued in power as the de facto collective government formed during Mr Andropov's lengthy illness.

In that case, Mr Konstantin Chernenko, the stocky 73-year-old Siberian who has spent his entire life having been away within the Communist Party apparatus and was Mr Brezhnev's own choice as successor, could still fulfil the ambition dashed when Mr Andropov beat him to the post 15 months ago. Indeed, if the decision were taken to opt again for a figurehead leader to supervise the eventual emergence of younger men, the honour could equally fall on Mr Ustinov or Mr Gromyko.

But the odds must be stacked heavily against them. The Soviet Union has not been run by a physically fit leader since 1976 when Mr Brezhnev suffered his first heart attack. The seven-year illness of Mr Brezhnev contributed to the sense of drift at home and abroad which Mr Andropov set out to counter with his forceful initial campaign to curb corruption, stiffen labour discipline and raise economic efficiency.

Had he been physically stronger and lasted longer, Mr Andropov might have gone down in history as the best Soviet leader since Lenin. His party, diplomatic and KGB experience, coupled with high intelligence and relatively wide cultural and intellectual interests compared to most of his Politburo contemporaries, marked him out as a worthy leader for a Communist super power.

But all the experience and qualifications were as dust in the light of his absence from the saluting base on Lenin's tomb at the traditional November military march past in honour of the Revolution, or



Marshall Dmitri Ustinov leans over fellow Kremlin power broker Andrei Gromyko, the Foreign Minister, to confer with 73-year-old Konstantin Chernenko (right). In the background one of the leading younger contenders, 57-year-old Vitali Voronikov (left) looks on while former Leningrad party boss Grigori Romanov looks over Mr Chernenko's shoulder. Also present at the Central Committee meeting in the Kremlin last December was 35-year-old Mikhail Gorbachev (not in picture).

the empty chair at the Central Committee session.

Russians not only like their leaders to be strong—and no one doubted Mr Andropov's intellectual or political strength—they like that strength to be visible. This is the land of the Iron where the symbols of power are arranged hierarchically and the man at the top is Czar.

Symbolism apart, the signs were that in the absence of Mr Andropov, much of the initial drive behind the anti-corruption and efficiency programmes began to run out of steam. Resistance to the sacking of Brezhnev appointees and their replacement by Andropov men also stiffened. The absence of an effective head of state and party heightened unease, not only at home but also abroad.

In other words, the experience of the past 15 months provides powerful ammunition at the highest levels of the Soviet leadership for the argument that this time the Soviet power brokers and king-makers must grasp the generation nettle and opt for a younger man. Such pressures are reinforced by the natural pressure from below, from the middle-ranking party and government officials whose promotion prospects have been blocked for so long.

In practice the Central Committee normally meets in plenary session twice a year to discuss and approve formally decisions already made by the Politburo, including approval of the annual economic plans.

It is also usually convened after the death or, as in Mr Khrushchev's case, removal of a leader to formally ratify the decision already made by the Politburo. Mr Andropov was unanimously approved by the Central Committee meeting ten days after his emergence as leader.

Barring any unexpected and unusual event the same procedure will probably apply this time. Mr Andropov had been

dead nearly 24 hours before the announcement was made and the Politburo has effectively had the last six months to make up its mind about a successor, or successors.

What is virtually certain is that the next leader will be one of the 12 present members of the Politburo.

He will not be either

Geidar Aliyev or Dimukhamed Kunashev, who are the only non-Slav members.

The conventional wisdom has it that

Russians, the ethnic majority in this Empire of over 100 nationalities, suffered too much under the Georgian Stalin, to

have another "non-Russian" foisted upon them.

The three most likely candidates for the post of party secretary are Mr Grigori Romanov, the 61-year-old former Leningrad party boss who made the key move to a Moscow-based central committee-secretariat position last June, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, at 53 the youngest man in the Politburo but with nearly four years membership under his belt and apparently well thought of by Mr Andropov, and 57-year-old Vitali Voronikov.

Mr Voronikov has moved up

with lightning speed over the past 15 months. Mr Andropov recalled him from virtual exile in Havana, whence he had been banished as Soviet Ambassador by Mr Brezhnev in 1979, after sensing the hot breath of Mr Voronikov's ambition. His first task back in Moscow was to clean up corruption in the Black Sea resort areas of Krasnodar which, under Brezhnev-appointed local party bosses, had become a favourite fleshpot

for party bosses and wheeler-dealers. He then moved back to Moscow first as deputy and then full Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, the biggest and most important of the 15 Soviet Republics which includes the Russian heartland and Siberia.

Voronikov, whose views about the West are a mystery, appears to have the credentials more as a future prime minister to replace 75-year-old Nikolai Tikhonov—than party boss.

What these men have in common is relative youth—ranging from Mr Gorbachev's 53 to Mr Romanov's 61 years. This means that all were too young either to have taken part in Stalin's purges or to have played an important role in the war—the two most important and traumatic events in the lives of previous Soviet rulers. Indeed Mr Gorbachev was only ten when the war began.

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ing and the deployment of new cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in Western Europe and when East-West relations generally are so bad.

Mr Gorbachev's chances would almost certainly have been better had Mr Andropov lived long enough to secure a real improvement in U.S.-Soviet relations.

But the recent improvement in relations, marked by Mr Andropov's cautiously receptive response to Mr Reagan's call for a "more constructive relationship" is still only a chink in the curtain.

It is unlikely that the Kremlin power brokers would wish, at this stage, to send a conciliatory signal to the West by appointing a man who, rightly or wrongly, is seen by many western analysts as the least dogmatic, best educated and most attractive of the new generation of leaders. This is a time for much tough bargaining. Smiles can come later.

The same doubts would not assail them over Grigori Romanov. A senior U.S. diplomat met him recently and came away with the distinct impression that Mr Romanov was deeply anti-western and anti-American, with the tough and wily stubbornness of his Russian peasant roots. It is an impression shared by many of the Leningrad intelligentsia, who were outraged by reports that guests at Romanov's daughter's wedding had ended by smashing some of the former Czar's crockery at a drunken party in the Hermitage. They see him as an uncultured boor.

Yet he also has the reputation of being a tough and relatively efficient party boss of the former Czarist capital. While he tolerated little political or cultural dissidence, he threw himself energetically into the supervision of an ambitious Housing programme and the development of a highly sophisticated and extensive military, industrial and naval shipbuilding complex.

Mr Romanov may not rank very highly in the public esteem—but he is not running for elective office. Like all the other candidates he is seeking the support of the men who individually and collectively represent the vital organs of Soviet military, economic and political power.

They are looking for a man who will put new energy behind the drive for economic efficiency and give a free hand to party and security organs in the maintenance of the discipline and party authority. He must also have the authority, astuteness and toughness to defend Soviet interests in negotiations with the West over arms control and other issues and in general ensure that necessary changes will be made from the top down—without putting at risk the military or other bases of Soviet power.

From the outside Mr Romanov looks like the man most likely to fit these specifications—but that ignores the depth of possible opposition based on factors of which only insiders can have an inkling.

Anthony Robinson, the FT's Moscow Correspondent, was expelled from the Soviet Union last April and is now based in London.

No Inn on the Park. No comment.

The paper that influential decision makers turn to first is very particular about where its own decisions are made.

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Need we comment further?

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Problems of dyslexia

From Mrs Rowena Mills

Sir,—Your feature "Do the unit trust managers earn their keep?" (January 28) does not really consider unit trust investment from the investors' point of view. May I try to put the matter into context?

1. It does not make any sense at all to talk about probabilities without some corresponding concept of risk. People's perception of risk is not symmetrical.

2. Unit trusts do offer risk protection: the spread between best-performing and worst-performing unit trust is much less than the spread between best and worst share. So even if the average performance of private investors was better than the average for unit trust (for which there is not the slightest evidence) the utility of this performance to investors would have to be greatly discounted because of its greater risk.

3. The conclusion drawn from the London Business School's research—that only two or three out of 15 fund managers show significant stock selection skills—is odd. We must consider what stock prices are: they are the signals which already include all the information available to the market about the value and prospects of the companies concerned. Under these circumstances it would be very surprising if a majority of fund managers were consistently buying and selling shares in the light of correct decisions that they were under- or over-valued—this would imply that the market as a whole had become dozy beyond belief. If it really is true that 30 per cent of the unit trust managers studied by the LBS are able to buy shares so as to add significantly to the fund's value, that speaks of an industry whose best performers are very highly motivated indeed.

David Fleming,
104, South Hill Park,
Hampstead, NW3.

Health care premiums

From Mr A. F. G. Bowen

Sir,—Your survey on Private Health Care (January 24) was read with interest. There are

two points worthy of comment:

one of them was obliquely touched upon by Gareth Griffiths.

It concerns group schemes on unrealistic premiums. I was in a company scheme where employees obtained a 25 per cent rebate, although employees paid contributions in full.

Being made redundant, I unsuccessfully tried to persuade the provident society to continue this rebate for I had been with them over 28 years and in that time my total benefits were under £500. They refused, but to receive a 10 per cent rebate my annual contribution had to be paid in full—in advance.

At that time the society was advertising 40 per cent reductions for groups and, when challenged, spoke of both administration savings and actuarial benefits to the society.

The latter must be untrue; how can figures group-wise and nationally vary to that extent?

The aim was to tempt new group memberships. Obviously private individuals' subsidies groups because of their lack of combined clout. This is most unfair.

The other point I find equally distasteful is the way premiums escalate on retirement. It is

likely that stage people are more likely to require medical attention and yet their income may well deter payment of heavily loaded premiums. Those who paid for many years, received little benefit, are unwanted by the societies except at penal rates.

Are the markets the message?

RONALD REAGAN has been dealt a harsh reminder this week of just how quickly the fortunes of a U.S. President can change.

In the Lebanon Mr. Reagan is having to make up to what may be the most serious foreign policy set-back since taking office.

And at home the collapse of share prices on Wall Street has raised a question mark about the future performance of the economy—the foundation on which Mr. Reagan is building his whole re-election campaign.

The new doubts revolve around two questions. In spite of the confident forecasts of most economists both within and outside the Administration is the growth of the U.S. economy this year as firmly based as investors had assumed? And how much flexibility will the Federal Reserve have to ease its monetary policy if growth should begin to stall?

The long-term sustainability of the economic upswing is no longer quite so confidently predicted. Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker and even Treasury Secretary Donald Regan this week issued guarded warnings of the risk of recession.

Bickering among Mr. Reagan's top economic advisers

Even if action is not taken to tackle the Federal budget deficits. The Administration optimistically projects that these will hover around the \$200bn mark until 1987, but the congressional budget office predicted this week that they could be as much as a third higher if no action is taken.

That these warnings have been sounded in the midst of an outbreak of bickering and barely concealed personal rivalries among President Reagan's top economic advisers has not been missed in Wall Street's hyper-sensitive trading rooms. Meanwhile, the disarray in Washington has dashed the hopes of President Reagan's political advisers that the issue can be shunted aside until after the general election later this year.

The collapse in share prices since the Dow Jones Industrial Average came within a whisker of its all-time high on January 9 this year has been as dramatic as it has been unexpected. It is still not clear whether the fall is simply a

reaction to the 60 per cent surge in share prices from their bottom in August 1982 or whether, as Mr. Volcker muttered this week, "The markets are the message." Is the stock market about to prove itself to be the most accurate leading economic indicator the U.S. has?

Most of the latest hard economic data—most of the private and official forecasts—still point in the opposite direction to the way the share indices have been moving.

True, the fourth quarter figures for the growth of the real gross national product showed a fall to 4.5 per cent from the 7.6 per cent rise recorded in the third quarter. But most economists have concluded that the decline understates the true momentum in the economy, something Mr. Volcker underscored this week. And they welcome the slowdown to a level which they see as more compatible with the need to keep inflation under control.

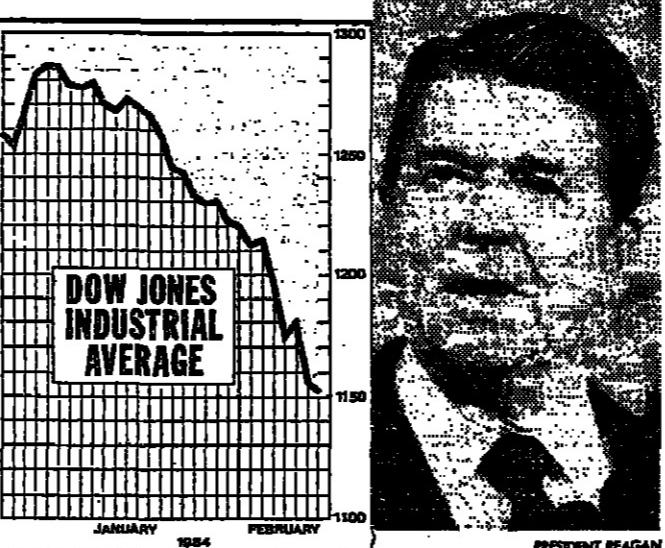
Within the individual sectors of the economy too, the picture is still encouraging. Consumer spending, which absorbs two-thirds of national output, ended strongly in December, and that momentum seems to have carried forward into January. Car sales, for example, hit an annual rate of 11.2m units last month, the strongest figure in four years.

With unemployment falling more rapidly than expected to 8 per cent in the past few months and hours worked rising, personal income should be rising. Most measures show that the consumer, who has already been borrowing heavily, still has room to take on further debt. Housing sales are also unexpectedly buoyant.

The fall in the stock market could, if it continues, begin to erode consumer confidence which has also been hitting peaks not seen for several years. But so far the fall has left private shareholders with a well-padded cushion in comparison with the August 1982 low.

Elsewhere, most economists continue to see in government deficit spending a force which, at least until its credit demands begin to merge with rising private credit needs, will give the economy a further boost.

Stock levels are low for this stage of an economic upswing so the danger of a heavy bout of de-stocking seems to be limited. While there are doubts, voiced this week by Mr. Volcker, about the quality of capital



PAL VOLCKER
JANUARY FEBRUARY

spending because it has tended to concentrate on short-lived items such as vehicles and data processing equipment, nevertheless it has still been rising strongly. The Commerce Department is projecting real growth of some 9 per cent for 1984. But what's missing, as Mr. Volcker pointed out, is long-term investment in the expansion of capacity.

In sum, apart from the relatively sluggish growth of the narrow M1 measure of money supply and some fears about corporate profits after a fourth quarter slow down in productivity growth most of the current economic data looks encouraging.

But the fear that the historic evidence is already out of date—and the warnings this week of the risks looming ahead—help to explain why Wall Street has trembled despite a virtual consensus that GNP will grow by 5.3 per cent in real terms this year.

The chief concern is the long term sustainability of the economic upswing. Because of the budget deficits there is a growing danger that unpredictable market movements, especially in the foreign exchanges, could undermine the economic recovery with scarcely a warning.

The clearest expression of the risks ahead has been sounded out of Washington in the past 10 days, as the Federal Reserve Board has spelled out the limits it sees to its freedom of action.

At the beginning of the month the central bank released the public record of its policy deliberations on December 20. Investors, who had expected that as the economy slowed the Fed would, in today's relatively

deterioration in the export sector will tend to weaken the GNP figures, the extent of such a deterioration—or even if it will occur—is hard to predict. To ease monetary policy now, with the economy apparently steaming ahead, would tend to boost

benign inflationary environment be able to nudge interest rates down were shocked.

The record revealed that the central bank came within an eyelash of voting to tighten its monetary policy because of the risk of inflation rising and because of the momentum in the economy. Some members of the Open Market Committee feared that this would lead to a faster economic expansion than the Fed's staff economists are predicting.

What investors may not have realised is that, from the Fed's vantage point, there was no slowdown in the fourth quarter. Domestic demand was still rising at about a 7 per cent annual rate. The slowdown in output reflected partly the weather and partly the very development which was at the heart of Mr. Volcker's warnings this week—the rapid deterioration in the balance of payments.

Private economists have pointed out that although fourth-quarter GNP slowed, the main reason for this has been the deterioration in the U.S. net export position as the trade deficit has soared to almost \$70bn last year. The Council of Economic Advisors has warned that the trade deficit could rise to \$110bn this year as the strength of the dollar further undermines the competitiveness of U.S. exports.

The Fed's dilemma is that while it can see that a further deterioration in the export sector will tend to weaken the GNP figures, the extent of such a deterioration—or even if it will occur—is hard to predict. To ease monetary policy now, with the economy apparently steaming ahead, would tend to boost

interest rates.

Mr. Volcker spent out coldly the dangers that if confidence in U.S. economic policy waned, it could become much harder to attract dollar inflows. Some economic analysts point out that there are already signs that the dollar is more vulnerable than it was a year ago, because of a change in the structure of currency inflows. More of these are now coming in through Eurodollar deposits with banks where investors are putting their deposits in order to be able to swing out of the U.S. currency quickly.

Wall Street will be watching

both the political winds, as

well as the economic indicators,

in the next few weeks, knowing that the political foundations of the President's re-election campaign could this week have begun to crumble.

Hereditary titles back in fashion

By Ivor Owen

BY MAKING it clear that hereditary peerages are back in fashion, has Mrs Thatcher put a valued custom which should never have been dropped. The fact that Mr Edward Heath did not recommend any hereditary honours, when he succeeded Mr Wilson, seems to have made her all the more convinced that she was doing the right thing.

In personal terms few are likely to cavil over the fact that as he approached his 90th birthday, Mr Harold Macmillan finally allowed himself to be persuaded to accept the Earldom he was first offered when he resigned the Premiership in 1963. At the same time, it is evident that there are many among his well-wishers who would have preferred to see him keep to his earlier judgment: that to have won Britain's supreme political prize and held the office of Prime Minister is the greatest honour that can be conferred on any man.

Mr Macmillan's Earldom—the rank in the peerage traditionally accorded to former Prime Ministers, on their elevation to the House of Lords—carries with it wider political implications since in due time, it will be inherited by his son, Mr Maurice Macmillan, the Conservative MP for Surrey South West, who will hold the courtesy title of Viscount during his father's lifetime.

Present indications are that Mrs Thatcher intends to recommend hereditary peerages only on comparatively rare occasions to persons who have made an outstanding contribution to the services of the nation. But nonetheless, the reversion to her creation hereditary peers, even on a limited basis, is likely to prove highly controversial. It will be seen as confirmation that Mrs Thatcher is content to let an unrefomed House of Lords (still numerically dominated by hereditary peers and with an inbuilt Conservative majority), continue its inherently undemocratic role—a role which is not insignificant, particularly because of its functions as a revising chamber.

Ironically, while Mrs Thatcher demonstrates her attachment to the hereditary principle, it is the life peers, introduced by Mr Macmillan's Government in 1985, who have been mainly responsible for reviving the reputation of the House of Lords as a chamber which, drawing on expert opinion on a wide variety of topics, has high debating standards.

It was another former Conservative Prime Minister, Disraeli, who provided the best description of translation to the Lords: asked how he found life there after the more earthy and robust atmosphere in the start of his first period of office as Labour Prime Minister.

"Such a break, Mrs Thatcher

tacked. Bond yields and high real interest rates demonstrate that investors already understand that the combination of potential private and public credit demands plus residual inflationary expectations leave little margin for interest rates to fall.

The larger question behind

all this is how it has affected

President Reagan's thinking.

Mr Reagan has made no attempt to disguise his scepticism about

economists, whom he recently

described as "dowm craters."

But he and his political advisers

may now be beginning to feel

that the balance of political

advantage is swinging away

from trying to shut the deficit

issue on to the sidelines and

towards tackling what Mr. Volcker described as the "ex-

cruciating" political decisions

needed to cut soaring deficits.

Wall Street will be watching

both the political winds, as

well as the economic indicators,

in the next few weeks, knowing that the political foundations of the President's re-election campaign could this week have begun to crumble.

Such a break, Mrs Thatcher

Weekend Brief

A tough, new breed of soccer bosses

When Louis Edwards was chairman of Manchester United and the club was playing important European matches he would put a note in the programme exhorting the Old Trafford faithful to give the visitors an old-fashioned Lancashire welcome." There is little old fashioned and nothing "Lancashire" about the man who would be his eventual successor.

Robert Maxwell, the headline-catching millionaire publisher and printer, wants to buy control of the club from Louis' son, Martin. For all that Louis, with his personalised champagne bottles, fitted the stereotype of the blustery, good-living football boss, he and his son were and are totally dedicated to Manchester and Manchester United.

Nobody would have mentioned Maxwell and professional football in the same breath, until two years ago when the chairman of Pergamon Press and the British Printing and Communications Corporation put up £124,000 to save Oxford United, his local club, from receivership. Maxwell has even said that he supports Arsenal to the obsessively loyal United crowd, the Gunners exist solely to be dumped out of the FA and Milk Cups.

Maxwell is another member of the new breed of commercially tough new soccer bosses now challenging the family dynasties which have controlled the game since the last century.

The triumvirate of Paul

A new way of selling old masterpieces

"I expect to be nervous," says Mr. Julian Agnew, a rare admission from the managing director of one of the oldest and most respected firms of Bond Street fine art dealers—a breed which lives on its urbane confidence. What is making Mr. Agnew nervous is the approach of 12 noon on February 24 when he will discover whether his gamble on a new supermarket adjoining the Tottenham stadium and to sell holidays and tours to Spurs fans.

Boroff was the driving force behind the £3.5m Spurs flotation last year and it was his decision to build houses near the club's Cheshunt training ground, to retail Spurs equipment and memorabilia in a new supermarket adjoining the Tottenham stadium and to sell holidays and tours to Spurs fans.

A successful North London

property developer with Markethatch Securities—the first company to transfer from the Unlisted Securities Market to a full Stock Exchange—

Boroff shuns the social glad-handing but his success with Spurs' quotation has clearly stimulated other clubs.

Queens Park Rangers has outlined plans for a USM quote and Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, could take Manchester United to the stock market if the talks with Maxwell, or the rival bid from Manchester businessman, Peter Raymond, come to nothing.

If Maxwell fails to reach agreement with Manchester United or the Raymond faction somehow takes the bidding above his limit, which seems unlikely, it is possible that he will turn his attention to the Highbury club, where his loyalties originally lay.

Arsenal has been controlled for three generations by the Hill-Wood family. The latest in the line is Peter, a director of Hambros Bank. There is a new comer to the board, David Dein, a commodity broker and fanatical Arsenal supporter who has acquired Arsenal shares worth £300,000.

figure of £60—a rise of £14.

Then came the warnings reported by political correspondents on "lobby terms" meaning that the identity of the minister who attacked the rubishy nature of *The Thorn Birds* was concealed. It emerged... however that the critic was none other than Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Home Office.

He had not actually watched any of the offending series, it seemed, but his wife Judy saw Episode 1 and concluded like many other viewers that *Jewel in the Crown* on ITV was much better. Pretty thin ground on which to build stories of "government opposition" per-



Julian Agnew with the painting to be sold by tender.

interest in the painting anyway. The American links pointed strongly to a trans-Atlantic buyer but Agnew's is very much a British company. A sale by tender after showing off the painting in New York and London seemed likely to attract the best price.

Mr. Agnew expects at least half a dozen bids to arrive on the Friday morning and after the exhibition in New York he has raised his expectations of the price. Americans are now prepared to pay up to \$8m for paintings by their compatriots and Copley was the first great American artist.

said was "if things go on as they have started this will prove to be one of the best television years for a couple of decades." It was notable that of the series named in support of that claim, four were ITV and only two BBC.

But the most interesting item in Mr. Singer's counterblast is the figures he suggests for a new licence fee: £91. Claiming that "privateers" expect viewers to add "at least £200 a year to the licence fee for cable and other services" Mr. Singer asked "at this rate would 25p a day for double the licence be too much to ask?" Considering the panto with which the BBC usually guards

its target figure during licence fee campaigns, that sum is extremely interesting, if only as a kite flown deliberately high in order to allow room to pull it down and still achieve something better than the figure they first thought of. BBC sources confirm that the corporation is, indeed, looking for considerably more than £60. But the most interesting item

is the BBC's own £1,000-£4,999 Sovereign, no penalties, no notice

£5,000+, no penalties, no notice

£8,000+, no penalties, no notice

£12,000+, no penalties, no notice

£18,000+, no penalties, no notice

£25,000+, no penalties, no notice

£35,000+, no penalties, no notice

£50,000+, no penalties, no notice

£75,000+, no penalties, no notice

£125,000+, no penalties, no notice

£250,000+, no penalties, no notice

£500,000+, no penalties, no notice

£1,000,000+, no penalties, no notice

£2,000,000+, no penalties, no notice

£4,000,000+, no penalties, no notice

£8,000,000+, no penalties, no notice

£16,000,000+, no penalties, no notice

£32,000,000+, no penalties, no notice

£64,000,000+, no penalties, no notice

Brixton Estate places £15m debenture

By Alison Hogan

Brixton Estate, the property development and investment company, has placed £15m of debenture stock which virtually eliminates all its UK variable interest rate borrowings. This follows a placing of a similar amount of debenture stock in April last year.

Yesterday it placed £15m first mortgage debenture stock 2023 with a gross redemption yield of 11.5585 per cent, set at a margin of 1.10 per cent above the gross redemption yield on 13 per cent Treasury stock 2004/08. The coupon is 11.1 per cent and the issue price £97.782, payable as to £25 per cent on acceptance and £72.072 per cent by July 13.

Deals are expected to begin on February 14, for settlement on February 17. J. Henry Schroder Waggs are the financial advisers and Grenfell and Colegrave and Rowe and Pitman, brokers to the issue.

Comment

The return of Brixton Estate to the fixed interest market comes as no surprise. The company self-finances developments and keeps properties freehold. It has always been conservative in its financing, preferring fixed rate borrowings to plan a more certain future. The £15m debenture stock in April heralded a more active development phase. Yesterday's move followed hot on the purchase of the freehold interest in Argyle House, Finch Square from Legal and General Life Fund for £5.5m. Fibres Square is expected to cost around £15m including refurbishment (conveniently matching the debenture stock). If Brixton gets £15 per square foot it could be worth over £90m. With further acquisitions close at hand, Brixton will soon see its variable rate debt increasing again and the chances are that it will be back with yet another tranche of debenture stock early in 1985. The shares closed up at 113p.

Gripperods ahead

Pre-tax profits of Gripperods Holdings, maker of carpet underlays and laying fittings, rose to £206,000 in the first half to October 31, 1983. This compared with £370,000, which included £40,000 losses on the disposal of Cimco International.

The directors are "cautiously optimistic" that results for the year will be satisfactory, to set against pre-tax profits of £911,000 for 1982/83.

The current year's interim dividend is raised to 1.68p net per 10p share, compared with 1.4p. Last year's total payment was 4.65p.

Turnover in the first half was up at £8.45m (£7.41m). The profit, after tax of £234,000 (£210,000), totalled £235,000 (£160,000). Earnings per share were 9.4p (6.4p).

Hogg Robinson

A proposal is to be made for the early repayment of Hogg Robinson Group £1 per cent unsecured loan stock 1985-2000 on the basis of £100 cash for every £100 nominal of the stock, and so in proportion for holdings of any other amount.

Holders will also be entitled to receive interest accrued to the date on which the proposal is implemented.

Wiggins forced into red by exceptional losses

EXCEPTIONAL losses this time of £650,000 plunged Wiggins Group, contractor, into the red in the six months to September 30, 1983. Pre-tax losses of £433,000 were incurred against a profit of £730,000, and year-end profit of £711,000.

Mr S. P. Hayklin, the chairman and chief executive, says that since the accounts for the year to March 31, 1983, it has become necessary to make two exceptional provisions.

These are in connection with the long-delayed anticipated settlement of a completed building contract carried out several years ago, and in respect of a completed development for a housing association. He says no further cash will be required to be expended in respect of these items.

Second-half boost pushes Wagon Finance over £2m

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

	Current payment	Date	Corre. payment	Total of spending	for last year	Total
Channel Is & Irlnd	448	May 4	40	44	40	
Gripperods	168	—	14	—	4.65	
Second Alliance	325	April 5	2.75	—	10.73	
Stonehill	int 1	April 11	nil	—	2	
Wagon Finance	188	Mar 30	1.89	2.5	2.31	
Wiggins Group	125	April 4	1.25	—	3.4	

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated.

* Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. † On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues. ‡ USM stock is quoted. § Unquoted. || Gross throughout.

Profits were subject to tax of £1.13m (£267,833), after which earnings per share were 3.7p (1.88p).

Looking ahead, Mr S. M. de Bartolomeo, chairman, says that the company will have to expand considerably this year, particularly this year preparing for the implementation of the final changes being introduced in 1985 under the Consumer Credit Act.

It will also be necessary, he says, to continue the vigilant monitoring of arrears due to the greater exposure arising from easier terms.

At the year end the company's instalment credit balances stood at £97,44m (£83.25m)—less unearned finance charges of £17.86m (£16.7m).

Although greater competition

for new business is expected this year, the directors are confident,

that the group is in a strong position to face the future.

Mr Bartolomeo intends to retire at the end of June. The board proposes to appoint Mr J. Chapman to succeed him in the capacity of executive chairman with Mr J. O. Skelton becoming sole managing director and deputy chairman.

Comment

Wagon seems to have pulled out all the stops in the second half. In fact the reasons for the big jump are less dramatic than the profit figure suggests, with their origins going back to 1981. At that time the company opened eight new branches and it is only now that the overheads have been fully offset, leaving the added business to come straight through to the profit account. On top of this there has been solid organic

growth across most of the group, thanks largely to the lifting of HP controls. The point here is that the nature of the business provides a large carry-forward position, with all turnover advances providing the foundation of profits in the future. A key indicator of what is in the pipeline is the level of interest outstanding on loans made. At the moment this is standing at £17.8m—£1.2m more than a year ago. Against this must be charged the rising burden of bad debts.

All this is good news for the first time in five years. At 50p, up 3p, the shares are selling on a p/e of 13 (stated earnings) while the yield is 7.4 per cent.

Stonehill cuts loss at midterm

A REDUCED pre-tax loss of £54,000 against £206,000 is reported by Stonehill Holdings, the domestic furniture manufacturer, for the 32 weeks to November 13, 1983.

This confirms the forecast of improved results made last July by Mr Philip Steinberg, chairman. And he now says he expects growth to continue into the foreseeable future.

Turnover for the opening period of 1983/84 increased from £8.51m to £8.9m and there was a

The loss per 25p share is 1.71p per share with a deficit of £52,000 (£149,000). Below the line there was also a debit of £43,000 (£187,000) in respect of extraordinary items.

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ordinary items.

Comment

Stonehill's climb out of recession has until now been long and slow. Retailers are still screwing down suppliers' margins something rotten, but the pace of business has quickened in the current half. Orders are 46 per cent ahead of the comparable

period—implying a hefty gain in market share—and the directors expect turnover to increase 25 per cent in 1984/85 as the recent pick-up in housing starts feed through to furniture makers. The first test Stonehill faces is how quickly it can gear up production to turn those orders into deliveries. The second is how it will react to the upheaval now threatening an industry which has already seen 25 per cent of its capacity squeezed out of existence in the past three years.

Many of Stonehill's smaller competitors have had so much stung knocked out of their balance-sheets by the recession that the strains of financing an upturn in volume could prove intolerable. The group's own balance-sheet is strong, but if there is a second rash of closures it will have to doubly quick on their feet to cope with the business casualties leave behind. The shares, meanwhile, were unchanged at 73p, where they yield 5.5 per cent.

feels this will further improve (4.43p) and the company has rejoined the interim dividend list with a payment of 1p net. There was a final distribution of 2p last year, however, when pre-tax profits of £102,000 (£21,000) were achieved.

During last year the company

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Plastic Constructions well ahead

Taxable profits of Plastic Constructions, supplier of anti-pollution and corrosion-resistant equipment, advanced to £48,615 for the year to September 9, 1983, compared with £9,278. Turnover was up at £10.74m, against £9.29m.

At the interim stage, directors had expressed reservations about the trend to higher sales continuing because of the inconsistent pattern of the industrial recovery. However, turnover in the second half rose to £5.55m, and against £4.65m, and pre-tax

profits were up at £161,000 (£22,000).

On this evidence, they believe the company is emerging from the depression of the last two years. They add that sales for the first quarter of the current year indicate a significant increase in turnover and profit for the 12 months, if the better business climate prevails.

The final dividend is raised to 1.54p net, compared with 1.34p, giving a total payment of 2.38p (2.17p). Earnings per 10p share were 4.92p (3.43p).

Tax took £15,951 (credit £70,696). Last year there was a £48,487 profit on sale of investments in a related company.

The profit attributable to shareholders was £232,664 (£20,461) and dividends absorbed £79,709 (£71,714) after waivers of £32,775 (£30,845).

During the year, the company's fabrication division won contracts to modernise extraction systems in school and university laboratories. Also, fume neutralising plants were designed and produced for the Ministry

general offer for the outstanding share capital at a price of around 83p per share.

He was unwilling to reveal how many new shares he would subscribe for, but if one assumes Firth intends to ensure majority control, then this must be by the year end to an offer by

the Ford Motor Company.

The get-together is understood to have been encouraged by Ford Motor. Assuming a purchase by

Cowie, the group would have to invest itself of four of the outlets, though advisers to the bidder could not say yesterday how long the group would be under one ownership.

There may also be some difficulties over Vauxhall dealerships which are held by both groups. Ford Motor only lets its main dealers hold rival outlets when they are not local to the Ford ones.

Earlier this week, Hanger suspended its share quote at 32p.

At that price, the Birmingham

based company is capitalized at £3.1m. Since its profits reached £2.7m in calendar 1978, the performance has been poor with two years of losses broken by profits of just £155,000 in 1981.

The share price of Sunderland-based Cowie rose 14p to 37p yesterday, giving it a market value of £4.4m. Cowie has also been hit by the problems of the motor trade and earlier losses

which are still very much a possibility but he criticised the four managers for "hiding behind a smokescreen."

Pilkington receives U.S. ruling on purchase

BY RAY MAUGHAN

Pilkington Brothers has been ordered to dispose of its remaining Canadian interests and freeze the level of its involvement in Mexico.

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission yesterday announced these conditions: it is to approve Pilkington's acquisition of 30 per cent stake in Libbey-Owens-Ford Company (LOF), the second largest U.S. glass-maker.

Pilkington said it accepted the

FTC's conditions although it

disagreed with its argument that

the U.S., Canada and Mexico

represented a single float glass

market.

The UK company, the world's largest glass-maker, reached agreement in October 1982 to buy the LOF shares for \$105.2m from Gulf and Western Industries.

The FTC has spent the last

15 months reviewing the

purchase under the U.S. Antitrust Laws.

Pilkington's shares fell 3p to

250p on the Stock Exchange

yesterday.

LOF contributed £4.6m to

Pilkington in the six months

ended October 1983.

Pilkington has been ordered to dispose of the remaining 49

per cent it holds in Ford Glass

of Canada within five years.

Ford Glass made a pre-tax

profit of \$1.8m in 1982 and turned

over £100,000 to Pilkington's profits in

the year ended March 1983. Total net asset value of Ford Glass was £25.2m.

Pilkington must also remove

its three representatives from

the boards of Ford Glass and

Vitro Plastics SA, a privately

held Mexican glass-company in

which it has a 35 per cent holding. It

may not increase its stake in

Vitro.

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SUMMARY OF THE WEEK

Take-over bids and deals

Cable & Wireless launched a £296m cash bid for the 61.5 per cent of Hong Kong Telephone and fairly quickly announced that it had won control, having received acceptances equivalent to 52.4 per cent of the equity. C & W bought 34.8 per cent of Hong Kong Telephone from Hong Kong Land last March. C & W already provides Hong Kong with its telex and international telephone links and the acquisition, according to the group, will result in more rational use of the two companies' communications facilities in the colony.

Mr. Robert Maxwell, chairman of British Printing and Communication Corporation, revealed that he is negotiating to buy Manchester United Football Club. No price has been indicated but Mr. Maxwell, in a joint statement with club chairman and chief executive Martin Edwards, said "it is intended that the negotiations be conducted speedily to reduce the period of uncertainty to a minimum."

An auction is under way for Glasgow-based video and consumer electronics distributor Michael Black, which is traded in the Unlisted Securities Market. Black, already the subject of a share-exchange bid worth £1.98m from Highgate and Job, received a shares and cash counter-bid worth £2.38m from Emiss Lighting. Highgate responded immediately with a revised higher offer of two of its own shares for every five Black, valuing the latter at £3.12m.

Bristol Oil & Minerals, formerly RCA International, made an agreed 115p per share cash offer worth £1.5m for Osprey Petroleum, the small exploration company with interests in the North Sea and the U.S.

Electronics concern Audiotronics revealed an agreed £2.23m share-exchange offer for Scan Data, the USM-quoted computing group, on the basis of nine of its own shares for every two Scan Data shares which values the latter at around 96p per share.

Tadpole Investments, through a newly-formed company, Tadpole Hotels Europe, launched a 130p per share cash offer

worth £7.85m for Prince of Wales Hotels, but the offer was rejected by the POW board as unacceptable and totally inadequate. The bid is conditional on POW shareholders rejecting a recently-announced rights issue proposal.

Fisons has purchased Curtin Matheson Scientific, a clinical laboratory products manufacturer, from the private U.S. company Coulter Electronics for nearly £60m. The deal, Fisons' first major U.S. acquisition, was largely funded by the issue of 4.91m Fisons shares to Coulter; the latter immediately placed the shares in the London market at a price believed to be around 725p per share.

Company	Value of bid for	Value of share** price*	Price before bid	Value of bid f.m.s.**	Bidder
Style	325* 270	311 3238	Harris Queensway		
All cash offer held. ↑ Cash alternative. ↓ Partial bid. \$ For capital not yet available. ¶ Unconditional. Loan stock alternative.					
Based on 10/2/84. † At suspension. ‡ Estimated. § Shares and cash.					

INTERIM STATEMENTS

Company	Half-year to	Pre-tax profit (£'000)	Interim dividends per share (p)
Beal, George	Oct 190	(59) L	(—)
BOC	Dec 31,000	(16,000) L	(—)
Boyle Elect. Indl.	Oct 1,310	(1,020) L	1.5 (1.2)
Dura Mill	Sept —	(2) L	(—)
Dyson, J. A.	Sept 82	(150) L	2.0 (2.0)
English Assocs	Dec 845	(909) L	1.0 (0.91)
Ewart New Nth.	Oct 23	(22) L	1.0 (1.0)
Heelamet	Oct 138	(75) L	2.0 (2.0)
Heilson Holdings	Oct 282	(1,080) L	(—)
Howard Shuttering	Oct 562	(203) L	1.0 (0.55)
Ims Bus Systems	Sept 1,230	(790) L	(—)
Itis Ind Services	Sept 1,000	(236) L	(—)
Jayplant	Nov 54	(16) L	(—)
Met's Trade Supp	Sept 71	(75) L	1.75 (1.75)
ML Holdings	Sept 385	(309) L	2.0 (2.0)
Ramsone, William	Sept 142	(85) L	1.5 (1.5)
Stockdale Hedges	Sept 1,470	(1,930) L	3.0 (3.0)
Ulitech	Dec 5,330	(2,120) L	1.69 (1.64)
Waring & Gillows	Sept 133	(777) L	0.75 (0.75)
Whitworth Elec	Sept 38	(130) L	(—)

(Figures in parentheses are for the corresponding period.)

* Dividends are shown net per share except where otherwise stated. † First quarter figures. ‡ In £L. § Figures for previous seven months. L Loss.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Company	Year to	Pre-tax profit (£'000)	Earnings* per share (p)	Dividends*
Aeronson Bros	Sept 2,010	(950)	5.4 (1.7)	2.1 (1.2)
Dee, George	Oct 822	(1,830)	28.0 (5.7)	5.7 (5.7)
Farmer Stedall	Oct 233	(—)	(—)	(—)
First Leisure	Oct 4,490	(—)	23.6 (—)	3.5 (—)
Ford, Martin	Dec 323	(190)	1.61 (0.97)	1.05 (0.75)
Goode, Durant	Oct 2,820	(2,770)	(—)	1.28 (1.0)
Imperial Group	Oct 195,300	(154,300)	27.0 (21.4)	7.8 (7.25)
Leisuretime Int'l	Oct 588	(141)	6.5 (3.4)	1.8 (0.9)
Loughs	Sept 11,200	(75,100)	15.5 (7.6)	9.0 (9.0)
Sea. Agric. Ind.	Dec 6,020	(6,730)	(—)	18.5 (16.5)
Vaniona Vivalia	Nov 12,050	(4,290)	25.7 (14.5)	8.0 (5.0)
Westminster Prop	Sept 28	(147)	(—)	(0.53)

Rights Issue

Newmarket (1981)—To raise \$22.6m through a one for three rights issue. A one for one scrip issue is also proposed.

Offers for sale, placings and introductions

Amer. Group	Private placing of up to 20 per cent of its equity followed by a listing on the London stock exchange.
Mid Southern Water Company	Offer for sale by tender of £2.25 per cent redemption stock 1991 at minimum tender price of £101 per cent.
Radio Chip	Placing 5 per cent of its non-voting shares on USM. Sangers Photographic—To join USM by way of a placing of 2.4m shares at 23p each.

APPOINTMENTS

Changes at Continental Illinois

Mr. David G. Taylor, vice-chairman and chief financial officer of CONTINENTAL ILLINOIS CORPORATION, has been appointed to the Continental Illinois Ltd (CIL), the corporation's London-based merchant banking subsidiary. Lord Wakefield, chairman of CIL since 1973, moves to the newly created position of deputy chairman and will continue as a member of the executive committee. Also appointed to the board are Mr. Edward S. Buttum, director of Continental Illinois Corp.; Mr. N. Gregory, managing director of CIL; Mr. Michael O. Rigg, senior vice-president and manager of the securities trading and public finance group in the U.S., who will also become a managing director of CIL; Mr. Robert D. McNew, senior vice-president and manager of the corporate treasury group in the

U.S.; Mr. Kent L. Pletsch, executive vice-president of Continental Illinois International Investment Corporation; and Continental Illinois Ltd (CIL), the corporation's London-based merchant banking subsidiary.

Mr. Bernard Coote has been appointed vice-president general manager of FILMKAIR COMPLETION (UK). He is a director of C. CZARNIKOW. Mr. Chataway was formerly vice chairman.

Mr. Paul Myhers, a director of N.M. Rothschild and Sons, has joined the board of LEONARD GROUSE ASSOCIATES, following the resignation of Mr. John Redwood on his appointment as head of the Prime Minister's Policy Unit.

Mr. Nils-Yngve Danielsson is to resign as managing director of ATLANTICA INSURANCE CO, Gothenburg, on May 17. His successor as managing director will be Mr. Goran Thorstensson, currently overseas manager of the Excess Insurance Co, London. Mr. Danielsson will become managing director of Atlantis' subsidiary, Atlantis Continental N.V., Amsterdam, which is to launch a branch office in London this year. From the new London base, Mr. Danielsson will spearhead for Atlantis certain marine insurance developments.

Mr. James Anthony Haden has been appointed to the board of RUBEROID CONTRACTS. He was previously promoted from technical manager.

Viscount Garmoyle and Mr. Oscar Lewisohn have been appointed to the board of AROYD AND SMITHERS, jobbers, as non-executive directors.

The international advisory board of CARRE, GREEN AND PARTNERS, management consultants, has been strengthened by the appointment of Sir Patrick Meaney, a deputy chairman of the Excess Insurance Co, London. Mr. Danielsson will become managing director of Atlantis' subsidiary, Atlantis Continental N.V., Amsterdam, which is to launch a branch office in London this year. From the new London base, Mr. Danielsson will spearhead for Atlantis certain marine insurance developments.

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Mr. Christopher Ruck, previous senior executive with Williams & Glyn's Bank, who joined the CO-OPERATIVE BANK GROUP as deputy chief general manager, banking, on February 6, and Mr. Terry Thomas, general manager (customer services), has been appointed to the board of the Co-operative Bank.

Mr. Christopher Ruck joins Co-operative Bank board

re-appointed as group executive chairman and Mr. Ron Springall to chairman of the group's holding company, The Berry Birch and Hawksford Group. Mr. John Cole has been appointed director of Berry Birch and Hawksford.

Mr. Michael Chataway and Mr. Michael Liddiard have been appointed deputy chairman and vice-chairman respectively of C. CZARNIKOW. Mr. Chataway was formerly vice chairman.

Two senior executives of GREYCOAT CITY OFFICES have been appointed directors. Mr. Richard C. P. Guignard joined Greycoat in 1982 and was formerly financial controller. Mr. John M. Weir is currently resident in New York, heading the Group's U.S. office.

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Mr. Peter Woodrow has been appointed London director of Cleveland-based YULLI GROUP. He retired recently as director and general manager of Impex Jones Holdings. Mr. Gordon Fraser has been appointed Scotland director of the Yulli Group. He has been general manager in Scotland for the past two years.

Mr. Ernest Ambach, a senior vice-president of CIGNA International Corporation, will be appointed managing director of CRUSADER INSURANCE upon Dot approval. He will also head all of CIGNA's existing international life and group operations which are to be based at Crusader's head office at Reigate.

Mr. Terry Hubble, formerly head of treasury at MAIBL Standard Chartered Merchant

Bank and Mr. John Shield, formerly with Kleinwort Benson and Scandinavian Bank, have been appointed to the board of SVENSKA INTERNATIONAL, London subsidiary of Svenska Handelsbanken, Stockholm. Mr. Hubble will head the treasury department; Mr. Shield will head the commercial banking services department and succeed Mr. Hill Samuel, chairman of Allied Unit Trust.

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Early 5.8 rally on Wall St

A RALLYING tendency developed on Wall Street yesterday when some prices were recovering some of the ground lost in recent days after investors became troubled about economic prospects for the U.S.

By 1 p.m. the Dow Jones Industrial Average regained .55 to 1,155.61, reducing its fall on the week to .542, while the NYSE All Common Index at \$60.01, gained 29 cents on the day but was still down \$2.97 on the week. The Transport Index recovered .259 to 516.71, reducing its loss on the week to 13.66.

In the broader market, advancing issues led declines by about a seven-to-six majority, but the trading volume dropped 25m shares to 89m, compared with 1 p.m. Thursday.

Certain Technology shares improved. Aynet moved up \$2 to \$36. Texas Instruments \$1 to \$129 and Cray Research \$12 to \$129 and Cray Research \$12 to \$129.

Dealers said investors were encouraged by signs that Wall Street's decline is slowing. Also boosting the market was the 1 percentage point decline in the Call Money rate to 11% per cent.

Dealers said investors were erated in the afternoon to finish on .521 at 1,055.20.

Brokers said, however, sentiment remains bullish on expectations of good demand at Government bond sales scheduled for next week.

Singapore

Share prices drifted lower in continued profit-taking and selling in moderate trading, with lower Wall Street and Hong Kong Market advices depressing sentiment.

The Straits Times Industrial Index lost 3.68 to 1060.20.

Tan Cheng, up 5 cents at \$110.00, announced a five-for-one bonus issue and was the most active stock, with 1m units transacted.

Genting followed with 574,000 shares exchanged before closing at \$35.50 up 5 cents.

Johannesburg

Gold shares quietly easier with the Bullion price.

"Heavyweight" losses ranging to 200 cents, as in Randfontein at 16.80 cents.

Patinum mirrored Golds but other Minings and Mining Financials were mostly unchanged.

Industrials were narrowly mixed.

Australia

Stock prices continued their week-long slide in reaction to weakness in overseas stocks and commodities.

Traders sold lower Wall Street prices again combined with lower Gold and Base Metal prices to keep downward pressure on Australian stock prices. Trading was moderate.

The All Ordinaries Index finished at its lowest level of the year at 743.4, down 4.4 on the day, and well off the 776.8 level it finished at last Friday.

Declines were recorded across the board, but brokers noted that there was good interest in the Property sector.

The Speculative Australian stock of the year, Vapocore, concluded its remarkable gains by hitting AS13 a share during the day before settling at AS12.20 at the close, up from AS11 a share Thursday.

Hong Kong

Share prices tumbled in the wake of the recent decline on Wall Street.

The Hang Seng Index fell 16 points by mid-session and acceler-

Canada

Stocks moved up over a wide range yesterday morning.

The Toronto Composite Index rallied 13.6 to 2,389.6 Metals and Minerals 19.6 to 2,158.9 Oil and Gas 14.9 to 3,304.7 Banks 14.0 to 45.67 and Utilities 1.43 to 16.76. But Golds shed 3.9 to 4,096.3

Northern Telecom further advanced \$1 to \$44 after estimating 1984 earnings would rise more than 25 per cent.

Tokyo

Lower but off the worst. The Market Average ended below 10,000 for the first time for a month, finishing off another 41.84 at 9,959.9; it was down 63.5 at one point in the afternoon.

Volumet of 330m (380m) shares.

Investors' worries about the continuing fall on Wall Street, increased Foreign selling and the high level of margin buying positions were responsible for the fall, dealers said.

Investors held off towards the close ahead of the long weekend. The market will be close today, the second Saturday of the month.

Blue Chips, International "Populars" and "Big Capital" shares led the price rebound toward the close, but the rise did not gather momentum.

Honda Motor fell Y40 to a three-month low of Y90 following a fall in its American Depository Receipt.

Major Banks reacted on profit-taking.

Stock Fall O'Nuts jumped \$2 to \$13 after a published report suggested that the company could be acquired.

Houston Natural Gas rose \$2 to \$35 on reports that it was looking for a "White Knight" to help it in its battle with Coastal Corp.

Long Island Lighting fell \$1 to \$8 after saying it suspended construction payments for its Nine Mile Point unit two facility.

United Brands improved \$1 to \$20 after American Financial Corp said it increased its stake in the company to 45.4 per cent from 29.8 per cent.

Closing prices for North America were not available for this edition.

CANADA

DENMARK

NETHERLANDS

AUSTRALIA

JPAN (continued)

FEB. 10

Price

Feb. 9

Feb. 8

Feb. 7

High

Low

High

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Dollar firmer

The dollar improved in currency markets yesterday in rather than trading ahead of the long weekend with U.S. centres closed on Monday for a public holiday. News of the death of Yuri Andropov, the Soviet President, tended to underpin the U.S. unit amid uncertainty as to who may succeed him. The market also reacted to fears of a sharp rise in U.S. M1 money supply this week.

The D-mark was firmer against most currencies, though trade weighted index fell to \$1.4 from \$1.5, having stood at \$1.5 at noon and in the morning. Against the dollar it opened at \$1.415.

In New York (latest)

	Feb. 10	Prev. close
Spot	\$1.4185-4200; \$1.4160-4170	
1 month	0.98-0.99 dis. 0.07-0.08	0.97-0.98 0.22 dis.
2 months	0.88-1.00 dis. 0.07-0.09	0.87-0.89 0.22 dis.

Forward rates are quoted in U.S. cents discount.

OTHER CURRENCIES

	Feb. 10	2	3	4
Note Rates				
Argentina Peso	25.26-25.55	27.24-27.24	Austria	27.25-27.55
Australian Dollar	1.5190-1.5210	1.5190-1.5210	Bulgaria	81.50-82.30
Brazil Cruzeiro	1.5692-1.5736	1.5692-1.5745	Canada	1.7850-1.7880
Finland Markka	8.6875-8.6995	8.6875-8.6975	Netherlands	1.7575-1.7680
Greek Drachma	14.70-14.80	14.70-14.80	Denmark	14.09-14.19
Hong Kong Dollar	11.02-11.12	11.02-11.12	Ireland	1.2555-1.2555
Iran Rial	4.0148-4.0185	4.0148-4.0185	W. Ger.	3.8773-3.8841
Kuwaiti Dinar (KD)	2.2730-2.2770	2.2730-2.2770	Portugal	193.25-194.75
Luxembourg Fr.	78.35-79.45	78.35-79.45	Spain	220.75-222.00
Malta Lira	5.5114-5.5118	5.5114-5.5118	U.S.	1.4100-1.4145
New Zealand Dlr.	2.1810-2.1810	2.1810-2.1810	U.K.	1.4100-1.4145
Saudi Arab. Riyal	4.9575-4.9640	4.9575-4.9640	U.S. Can.	1.4100-1.4145
Singapore Dollars	3.0180-3.0210	3.0180-3.0210	U.S. Can.	1.4100-1.4145
U.S. African Dlr.	1.5165-1.5165	1.5165-1.5165	U.S. Can.	1.4100-1.4145
U.A.E. Dirham	3.1865-3.1870	3.1865-3.1870	U.S. Can.	1.4100-1.4145
Yugoslavia	193.80-194.00	193.80-194.00	U.S. Can.	1.4100-1.4145

*Selling rates.

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

	Feb. 10	Pound Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Deutsche m/k	Japanese Yen	French Franc	Swiss Franc	Dutch Guild	Italian Lira	Canada Dollar	Belgian Franc
Pound Sterling	1.707	1.614	3.685	532.0							
U.S. Dollar		1.2744	1.2347								
Deutschmark	0.8285	0.8364	1	85.51							
Japanese Yen 1,000	5.012	4.859	11.69	1000							
French Franc 10	0.857	1.184	5.250		277.0						
Swiss Franc	0.816	0.847	1.047			377.9					
Dutch Guilder	0.828	0.833	0.886				25.05				
Italian Lira 1,000	0.419	0.583	1.626					10.10			
Canadian Dollar	0.856	0.868	2.005						1.40		
Belgian Franc 100	1.535	1.781	4.890							1.40	

*U.K. and Ireland are quoted in U.S. currency. Forward premiums and discounts apply to the U.S. dollar and not to the forward currency.

Belgian rate is for convertible francs. Financial Franc 51.50-51.80. Six-month forward dollar 0.40-0.45 dis. 12-month 0.50-1.00 dis.

and traded in a fairly narrow range of \$1.4100-1.4195. It closed at \$1.4135-1.4145, a fall of 90 points. Against the D-mark it fell to DM 3.8820 from DM 3.89 and Y333.0 from Y333.20 on Y333.20.

Sterling was weaker against most currencies. Its trade weighted index fell to \$1.4 from \$1.5, having stood at \$1.5 at noon and in the morning. Against the dollar it opened at \$1.4145

and traded in a fairly narrow range of \$1.4100-1.4195. It closed at \$1.4135-1.4145, a fall of 90 points. Against the D-mark it fell to DM 3.8820 from DM 3.89 and Y333.0 from Y333.20 on Y333.20.

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Forward rates are quoted in U.S. cents discount.

in New York (latest)

<tr

UK and Republic of Ireland

Quotation has not been

granted in London and dealings

are not recorded in the Official

List

in London

For these securities in which no business was recorded in Thursday's

list, see the following day's

With the following data.

+ Bargains at special prices

+ Bargains done the previous day. + Bargains

done such non-member or executed in overseas markets.

+ - - - -

in most cases

Karlsruhe, West Germany

London, England

Montreal, Quebec

New York, New York

Paris, France

Rome, Italy

Tokyo, Japan

Vancouver, British Columbia

Vienna, Austria

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Zurich, Switzerland

+ - - - -

in most cases

Kroger, Louisville

Lac Minerals, Sudbury

Lambert Technologies, St. John's

Levitt House, Duluth

Lingering High, Niagara Falls

Little Lake Zinc, Sudbury

Loncon, Inc., Tel Aviv

Mitex, London

Monash, Ontario

Munich, Germany

Muscatine, Iowa

Munich, Nuremberg

Munich, Vienna

Munich, Wiesbaden

Munich, Zurich

Renault truck division deeply in red

By PAUL BETTS IN PARIS

RENAULT, the French state-owned car group, will continue to be burdened by the problems of its loss-making industrial vehicles and farm machinery operations for another three years.

Renault's worldwide car operations are expected to show break-even or a slim profit for 1983, but the worsening situation in the industrial vehicles market will again plunge Renault heavily into losses for 1983. The truck division could

show a deficit of more than FFr 1bn.

The group is in the midst of considering detailed plans to restructure its farm equipment business. Negotiations are now advanced between Renault and International Harvester (IH), the U.S. farm machinery group, over major industrial collaboration in Western Europe.

Company officials said two possible types of collaboration were envisaged in the current talks with IH which could lead

to a major agreement. The first would involve a joint venture limited to the two concerns' French farm machinery operations.

The second, and the one preferred by Renault, would involve collaboration on a European scale which would embrace IH's farm equipment operations and plants in West Germany and Britain as well as those in France.

Renault officials also confirmed any eventual deal would

probably involve substantial French Government financial support of around FFr 1.5bn. But the same officials said Renault was no longer holding discussions with Massey Ferguson in France.

This year will be another difficult one for Renault's car operations, but next year the situation should improve. One of Renault's main problems has been that the company is in the middle of renewing its model range.

Holmens Bruk to build newsprint plant

By Kevin Duna, Nordic Correspondent in Stockholm

HOLMENS BRUK, Europe's largest newsprint manufacturer, is to invest SKr 750m (\$95m) in a 210,000 tonnes a year newsprint plant.

The plant, to be built near Norrkoping on the East Coast of Sweden, is planned to come into operation in September, 1985.

It will increase Holmens Bruk's total newsprint production capacity to nearly 800,000 tonnes a year and is part of the careful expansion of Sweden's newsprint capacity, expected to rise from just under 1.8m tonnes last year to some 2.1m tonnes by 1987.

The new Holmens Bruk plant is the second stage of a 400,000 tonnes a year paper mill begun in the mid-1970s.

Dagens Nyheter, Sweden's leading daily newspaper, controls 25 per cent of the voting rights in Holmens Bruk.

● Schuman, the Finnish integrated forest industry group, improved result in 1982. Turnover increased by 26 per cent to FM 2.13bn.

Assets sale boosts Metromedia

By PAUL TAYLOR IN NEW YORK

METROMEDIA, the U.S. broadcasting and entertainment group which is currently the target of a management buyout, increased fourth quarter profits because of gains on the sale of assets.

Net earnings for the latest period were \$37.2m or \$1.27 a share, compared with net earnings from continuing operations of \$16.6m or 48 cents a share in 1982.

The latest figures include a \$2.8m or \$1.01 a share gain from the sale of assets. In 1982, \$22.9m or \$8.03 a share from discontinued operations

made a final net of \$221.5m or \$6.51 a share on revenues of \$131m. Revenues in the latest quarter were \$160.3m.

The latest results lifted Metromedia's full year net earnings to \$102.2m or \$3.45 a share, against a profit from continuing operations of \$86.2m or \$2.32 a share in 1982.

The 1983 full year earnings include a \$6.8m or \$2.34m a share gain on the sale of assets. In 1982 a \$22.9m gain from discontinued operations made a final final net of \$309.2m or \$8.31 a share after a \$50m or

\$1.35 gain on the sale of assets and retirement of debt.

Revenues increased from \$47.1m in 1982 to \$532.8m in 1983.

Earlier this month Metromedia approved a management buyout proposal from Mr John Kluge, its chairman who owns about 25 per cent of Metromedia's stock, and three other executives. The proposal is subject to shareholder and Federal Communications Commission approval—would take Metromedia private in a deal valued at around \$1.5bn.

IRI currently owns 89 per cent of BCI but this proportion is set to decrease later this year when convertible bonds it controls

EFIM registers L440bn deficit

By Alan Friedman in Milan

EFIM, the smallest of the three major Italian state holding companies made a loss of L440bn (\$62m) last year, against a deficit of L389.5bn the previous year. Sig Corrado Fiacavento, who has just submitted his resignation as president of EFIM a year before his term expires, told the Senate Budget Committee in Rome yesterday that EFIM needs an extra L560bn of cash this year.

The EFIM loss was largely a result of problems in its aluminium business, which accounted for L370bn of the total L440bn 1983 deficit. Of the L370bn, some L280bn was related to financial charges.

Group turnover last year was L4.225bn, against L3.700bn in 1982.

Aluminium turnover totalled L500bn. Total outstanding debt at the year end was L2.810bn, of which some L1.500bn was denominated in foreign currency.

● Invest, the Milan-based holding company of the Bonomi group of construction, wine, textile and other businesses, has announced a 1983 profit of L10.10m (\$5.9m), up by 30 per

cent from L7.70m in 1982.

The company, North American Forestry Development, and its wholly owned subsidiary, Kodiak Lumber Mills, filed for

Straits Trading lifts CUB stake to 10%

By TERRY POVEY

STRATS TRADING, the Singapore-based trading company, has bought a further 1.6 per cent stake in Carlton United Breweries, the leading Australian beer producer. This takes Straits' total in CUB up to almost 10 per cent.

CUB is currently the subject of a full takeover bid from Elders IXL, the Australian pastoral, trading and finance major. Straits has purchased its additional 1.6m shares in the brewer by bidding just above the A\$3.82 (US\$3.40) per share cash offer from Elders.

Mr John Elliott, managing director of Elders IXL, said in London last week that "an understanding has been reached with the foreign investment company that has been buying CUB shares on the market."

Straits has interests in brewing in both Malaysia and Australasia. There is a close relationship between it and Malaysian Breweries, the largest beer producer in Asia. Also Straits previously held a minority stake in Swan Brewery of Perth—sold in 1982—and in Leonard Breweries of New Zealand—also sold in 1982.

Straits has paid some A\$7.5m for its 10 per cent stake in CUB.

Morgan Guaranty in Japan venture

By David Lascelles in Tokyo

MORGAN GUARANTY, the New York Bank and Nomura Securities, Japan's largest securities house, are seeking approval for a joint-venture fund management company. The move is yet another challenge to Japan's tightly segmented financial system and follows Citicorp's acquisition of the Tokyo operations of Vickers da Costa.

Like the Citicorp deal, the plan hits at the strict division of functions in the country's finance industry. However, the barrier here is the one separating commercial from trust banking, rather than the Glass-Steagall-type division between commercial banking and securities.

The decision confronting the Finance Ministry is, however, similar. How rigidly should the law be applied, given that the Government is already committed to liberalising the Japanese finance industry, and the big fuss the U.S. is making about foreign access to Japanese financial markets?

A lot hangs on the decision. Three other large U.S. banks, Bank of America, Chemical and Citicorp have announced plans to link up with main Japanese securities houses—respectively Nikko, Yamai and Daiwa.

Nothing will probably be decided until next summer but the odds already seem in favour of the U.S. banks. The division between commercial and trust banking is much less controversial than that between commercial banking and stockbroking which is seen as a high risk business.

Mitsui admits Alaska loss

TOKYO—A subsidiary of

Mitsui, the Japanese trading on Thursday, has pulled out of an Alaskan timber development project, with losses likely to total some Y320m (\$16.8m). Mitsui said yesterday.

The company, North American Forestry Development, and its wholly owned subsidiary, Kodiak Lumber Mills, filed for

Kyodo

Banco Hispano-American ahead

BANCO Hispano-American,

Spain's third largest commercial bank, registered a 7.5 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to Pta 13.6bn (\$8.7m) for 1983, compared with Pta 12.6bn in 1982, writes David Brown in Stockholm.

Investments, however, rose by less than 4 per cent to Pta 874bn. This was a result of limitations on the use of resources stemming from the tightening of monetary policy during the year.

Provisions and set-asides were raised by 18 per cent to Pta 1.75bn, following a 30 per

cent reinforcement the previous year. Clients' deposits at the end of the year totalled Pta 1.291bn, an increase of more than 17 per cent.

Earlier this week Prof. Romano Prodi, chairman of IRI, said that IRI intended to reduce its holding in the banks it controls a dividend of SKr 10 a share, up from SKr 9.80, adjusted for last year's rights issue.

Kyodo

Italian bank to double capital

ITALY'S second biggest bank, Banca Commerciale Italiana (BCI), plans to double its equity capital from L210bn (\$124m) to L420bn. It is thus joining Credito Italiano and Banco di Roma, which like BCI are controlled by IRI, the state holding company, in planning a doubling of capital, writes James Buxton in Rome.

BCI, which says without giving figures that both its

assets and profits rose satisfactorily last year, will give its shareholders' shares to a value of L140bn by capitalising its reserves, and will offer the remaining L70bn worth in the form of rights, at a substantial discount on the current share price.

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F. & M. Securities Fund

F. & M. Securities Fund

G. & S. Securities Fund

G

Equities remain sensitive at end of difficult week

Index down 27 points over five-day period to 805.4

Account Dealing Dates

First Declar. Last Account Dealings, Jan 30 Feb 9 Feb 10 Feb 13 Feb 23 Feb 24 Mar 2 Feb 27 Mar 8 Mar 9 Mar 19 New-time dealings may take place from 9.30 am two business days earlier.

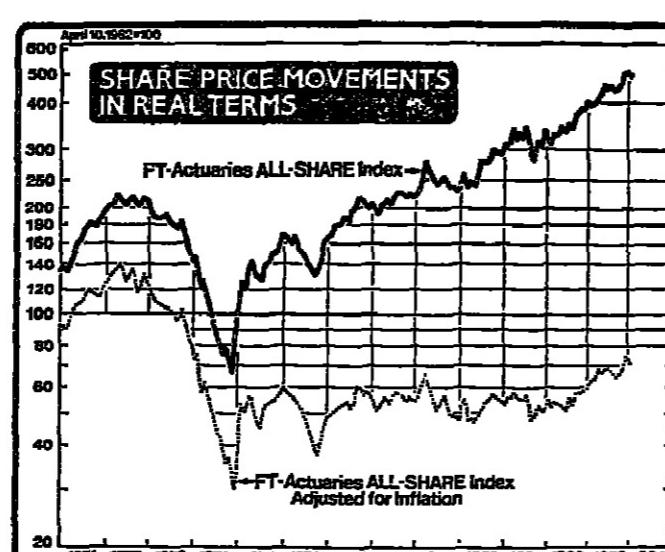
A difficult week for many London equity market traders ended with leading shares still sensitive but tentatively recovering a little of the sharp losses sustained during the initial two-day slump. The abrupt reversal of London's sustained four-month advance to record levels has been completely unexpected and squarely blamed on Wall Street. For many weeks U.S. investors have shown concern about the effects of Government financial policies on the economy's longer-term health.

London and other international markets have ignored these signs until this week. Then the fall in the Dow Jones index to its lowest level since April last year set off a chain reaction in world markets. Potential buyers went to ground quickly and stocks which excited investors in the boom period were soon blown off course. Profit-taking sales have not been especially heavy but sentiment universally has taken a buffering.

Views that Wall Street is over-reacting to the U.S. Budget deficit and short-term monetary trends yesterday failed to restore confidence here. Leading Industrials moved marginally throughout the session but after the official close were better on demand, without penalty, for the forthcoming earnings forecast starting on Monday. Earlier few investors had incurred for "new-time" rates. Last month's fall in UK inflation had little impact on sentiment.

The hourly movements in the FT Industrial Ordinary share index were unspectacular until the close, which was 41 up at the day's best of 805.4; this was partly in recognition of Wall Street's better trend early yesterday and partly a reflection of marked firmness in 30-share constituent TI. Recent speculation that a stake was being built up in the leading UK engineering group intensified following rumours of a 6 per cent shareholding changing hands outside of the market: TI rose 14 to 2180. Over the week, the index recorded a fall of 27 points, its biggest fall since mid-October last year.

Favourable futures market indications encouraged renewed support for Gilt-edged securities. Announcement late of January's Retail Prices index also contributed to the firmer tone and, in brisker trading, longer-dated stocks gained 1 or so. The new medium/long tap, £25 paid



tends to close its West Bromwich foundry. ACI slipped to 588p in the absence of support before picking up in a Wall Street advance. It is still 4p cheaper than the leaders. Vickers, a depressed market at 500p, the preliminary results are due on February 23. Elsewhere, Amersham International remained out of favour and shed 3 more to 213p, but Porters Chadburn, up 31 to 85p, on the bid approach from GM Firth helped to enliven proceedings.

Beecham above worst

Among Foods, Bio-Isolates slipped to 103p before late support left the close a net 2 dearer at 110p; the preliminary results are due next Tuesday. Paterson Jenkins firmed to 175p largely on the efforts of a single buyer. On the bid front, Bassett hardened to 3 to 155p. Avana's share-exchange offer is currently worth 125p per Bassett share. The leaders, easing through the House session, steadied afterwards and some eventually made modest improvements. Tesco improved 3 to 168p and Unigate hardened a couple of pence to 153p.

Grand Metropolitan continued to respond to an investment recommendation and put on 10 for a two-day gain of 18 to 348p. Trushouse Forte added 3 to 204p on dividend buying. Ladbrooke, a rising market recently on take-over hopes, encountered profit-taking and eased a couple of pence but, at 239p, retained a gain of the week of 14. Prince of Wales Hotels, up 23 on Thursday following Tadpole Hotel's 130p per share cash offer for the company, slipped a couple of pence to 133p.

Trading in the Electricals leaders was relatively quiet, but most quotations showed modest gains at the close. GEC finished 4 to the good at 182p and Plessey a couple of pence below. A 10p rise in 204p. Cable and Wireless, up 15 more to 317p, rallied afresh after successfully gaining control of Hong Kong Telephone. Mumford and White, in contrast, weakened 10 more to 150p for a two-day loss of 45 on the profits warning. Sound Diffusion revived with a rise of 6 to 136p, while Atlantic Computer were notably up for a gain of 15 at 430p. Engineers were highlighted by TI which touched a new 1983-84

peak of 230p before settling 13 to the bad at 218p amid rumours that a large shareholder had changed hands. Elsewhere, and among the leaders, Vickers, a depressed market earlier in the week on adverse Press comment, rallied 5 to 131p. Interest in secondary issues was out of favour and shed 3 more to 213p, but Porters Chadburn, up 31 to 85p, on the bid approach from GM Firth helped to enliven proceedings.

on the day. Other leading

Miscellaneous Industrial closed with small mixed movements after a rather uncertain trading session. Glaxo ended 5 cheaper at 750p, after 75p, while Bowater settled only a couple of pence down at 250p, after 257p. Elsewhere, Aeronautics featured a late rise of 10 to 55p on the agreed counter-offer of \$8.5m cash per share from Coats Patons; Newell Companies Inc similarly offered 80p per share. British Aerospace, an unsettled market of late on doubts about Government aid for the A320 European Airbus, rallied 6 to 233p. Favourite Press mention left Avon Rubber 4 to the good at 144p, while Grappler rods responded to the good interim results with a rise of 5 to 143p. D. Macpherson encountered support ahead of the preliminary figures, due shortly, and put on 3 to 54p, but end Account profit-taking clipped 9 from 128p.

Cornwall were good again at 290p, up 13. Demand revived for Wedgwood, 7 dearer at 135p, and VW Thermar, a similar amount up at 151p. Bid speculation continued in W. Canning, up 11 to 135p, after 105p.

Some noteworthy features emerged in the recent-day Motor sectors. York Triller, subject of a newsletter recommendation last Monday, touched 41p before settling a net 3 better on the day and 14 up on the week at 40p. Fresh bid speculation stimulated gains of 5 in Harold Perry, 82p, and of 3 in H. and J. Quick, 35p, the latter for a five-day rise of 11. Components featured Aerospace Engineering, which dipped to 45p before settling a net 5 off at 39p following the sharp slump in first-half profits. Renewed institutional demand lifted Lucas 4 to 121p.

Renewed support was forthcoming for British Printing, 316p, and United Newspapers, 316p, which rose 8 and 11 respectively. Elsewhere, Fleet Holdings softened a penny to 177p; the interim figures are due on Tuesday.

The Gold Mines index eased 1.6 to 583.3.

Platinum trended to lower levels with Rustenburg 10 cheaper at 785p. Impala, scheduled to announce first-half results next Monday, shed 5 at 930p. The antimony/gold producer Consolidated Murchison declined 12 to 810p.

London domiciled Financials responded to steady support and settled at the day's best with Charter 3 at 228p and Consolidated Gold Fields 6 better at 552p. RTZ firmed 6 but still retained a fall on the week of 44 at 633p. South Africans, on the other hand, showed "Amgold" another 14 off at 277p. De Beers shed 5 to 585p.

Properties drifted back from slightly higher open levels to close modestly lower. Land Securities settled 3 cheaper on balance at 249p, after 254p, and MEPC finished a couple of pence off at 250p, also after 254p.

On the other hand, Peachey retained an initial gain of 3 at 187p, while British Land hardened a penny to 113p; the latter has issued a £5m Debenture stock following the £8.5m acquisition of Argent House, Finsbury Square, London. Elsewhere, Bairstow Eves attracted "new-time" buying and hardened a penny to 80p, while Stockley returned to favour at 165p, up 3.

Comment on the marked acceleration in second-half profits and the group's first dividend increase since 1979 helped Impala rise 3 more for a two-day gain of 6 at 157p. Elsewhere in Tobaccos, Rothmans International hardened a couple of pence to 115p, but Bats lost the turn at 180p.

In a colourless Textile sector, Courtairns edged forward a penny to 136p, but Harold Ingram lost 10 to 405p.

Financial Trusts had Silver-mines 5 higher at 138p following acquisition news. Hamerton Trusts revived with an improvement of 1 to 31p and R. F. Martin added 10 to 260p.

Oils dip and rally

Conditions in the Oil sector remained extremely sensitive. The fresh outbreak of a petro price cutting war, most majors have reduced petrol by 4p a gallon, made for dullness early on, but quotations gradually recovered. Helped by Wall Street advances later, most finished only a shade easier on balance. British Petroleum

Options finished on a bright note with 4,603 contracts struck; the week's daily average amounted to 3,916. Lonrho attracted a substantial business in the wake of the annual results with 1,031 calls transacted, 347 in February 1980's which doubled to 7p. Lonrho also attracted 491 puts, 335 in the May 1980's. Elsewhere, Beecham sprang to life and recorded 450 calls, 185 in the March 1980's and 92 puts. A lively two-way trade developed in Imperial Group with 165 calls and 151 puts done.

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RISES AND FALLS

British Funds 73 4 26 110 234 171

Capitals 75 157 289 295 1,060 1,255

Industrials 31 33 57 108 227 270

Diversions 45 42 54 277 312 260

Mines 54 53 61 188 388 360

Others 568 580 1,430 1,971 4,222 6,191

Totals 568 580 1,430 1,971 4,222 6,191

Yesterdays 73 4 26 110 234 171

Rises 73 4 26 110 234 171

Falls 73 4 26 110 234 171

Same 73 4 26 110 234 171

On the week 73 4 26 110 234 171

Rises 73 4 26 110 234 171

Falls 73 4 26 110 234 171

Same 73 4 26 110 234 171

On the month 73 4 26 110 234 171

Rises 73 4 26 110 234 171

Falls 73 4 26 110 234 171

Same 73 4 26 110 234 171

On the year 73 4 26 110 234 171

Rises 73 4 26 110 234 171

Falls 73 4 26 110 234 171

Same 73 4 26 110 234 171

On the decade 73 4 26 110 234 171

Rises 73 4 26 110 234 171

Falls 73 4 26 110 234 171

Same 73 4 26 110 234 171

On the century 73 4 26 110 234 171

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On the millennium 73 4 26 110 234 171

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Falls 73 4 26 110 234 171

Same 73 4 26 110 234 171

On the century 73 4 26 110 234 171

Rises 73 4 26 110 234 171

Falls 73 4 26 110 234 171

Same 73 4 26 110 234 171

On the millennium 73 4 26 110 234 171

Rises 73 4 26 110 234 171

Falls 73 4 26 110 234 171

Same 73 4 26 110 234 171

On the century 73 4 26 110 234 171

Rises 73 4 26 110 234 171

Falls 73 4 26 110 234 171

Same 73 4 26 110 234 171

On the millennium 73 4 26 110 234 171

Rises 73 4 26 110 234 171

Falls 73 4 26 110 234 171

Same 73 4 26 110 234 171

On the century 73 4 26 110 234 171

Rises 73 4 26 110 234 171

Falls 73 4 26 110 234 171

Same 73 4 26 110 234 171

On the millennium 73 4 26 110 234 171

Rises 73 4 26 110 234 171

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Same 73 4 26 110 234 171

On the century 73 4 26 110 234 171

Rises 73 4 26 110 234 171

Falls 73 4 26 110 234 171

Same 73 4 26 110 234 171

On the millennium 73 4 26 110 234 171

Rises 73 4 26 110 234 171

Falls 73 4 26 110 234 171

Same 73 4 26 110 234 171

On the century 73 4 26 110 234 171

Rises 73 4 26 110 234 171

طہران احمد افضل

Lloyd's Life Assurance—cont.	
<i>Gardiner, Fawcett & Sykes A</i>	
American Feb 7	129.6
British Feb 7	124.9
Community Feb 7	127.2
Extra Int. Feb 7	127.9
Far Eastern Feb 7	124.3
High Inc Feb 7	124.8
Income Feb 7	124.5
Global Street Feb 7	125.4
Special Sks Feb 7	124.3
Skt Feb 7	120.7
Japan Feb 7	128.2
U.S. Small Corp. Feb 7	129.7
Man. Genl. Feb 7	124.5
Austria Feb 7	122.4
GB and Envir. Feb 7	125.4
Gold Share Feb 7	127.9
<i>London Atlantic & Nitro. M&L Assur. Ltd.</i>	
129 Kingsway, London WC2B 6NP	01-404 0393
<i>'Asset Builder'</i>	
£68.3	72.3
<i>London Indemnity & Gen. Ins. Co. Ltd.</i>	
18-20, The Forbury, Reading	500511
Money Mktg Feb 7	125.9
MM Flexible Feb 7	127.8
Food Interest Feb 7	126.3
<i>London Life Limited Assur. Ltd.</i>	
100, Temple St., Bristol, BS1 6EA	0272-279179
See adjacent page Mon-Fri and Stock Exchange Dealings page Sat.	
<i>London & Manchester Gen.</i>	
Wharfdale Park, Exeter EX5 1DS	0392 521555
Invest. Trst. Fd. Acc.	126.6
Invest. Trst. Fd. Acc.	125.4
Property Fund Acc.	121.0
Property Fund Acc.	122.1
Flexible Fund Acc.	126.6
Flexible Fund Acc.	126.6
Flexist. Ind. Fd. Acc.	126.3
Fixed Ind. Fd. Acc.	126.0
Genl. Acc.	126.2
Equity Fund Acc.	122.1
Equity Fund Acc.	124.8
International Fd. Acc.	125.7
Capital Growth Fd. Acc.	125.2
Moneymaking Fund	125.1
Exempt Int. Trst. Cap	129.9
Exempt Int. Trst. Acc.	126.3
Exempt Int. Trst. NS	128.2
Exempt Poly Cap	129.0
Exempt Poly Acc.	128.1
Exempt Poly NS	129.3
Exempt Flex Cap	125.1
Exempt Flex Acc.	126.0
Exempt Flex Cap	126.7
Exempt Equity Acc.	127.5
Exempt Equity Acc.	122.9
Exempt Fed Int Cap	127.3
Exempt Fed Int Acc	121.3
Exempt Gld Cap Acc	126.4
*Addition to price when relevant mktg charges apply.	
<i>M & G Group</i>	
Three Quays, Tower Hill, EC3R 6BQ	01-626 4588
American Fund Bond	121.7
American Rec. Cap	125.8
American Strkr. Cr. Bd.	126.6
Australian Bond	122.9
Commodity Bond	133.7
Deposit Bond	128.2
Equity Bond	123.0
Exempt Int. Bond	127.6
Extra Yield Fd. Bond	133.5
Far Eastern Bond	124.2
Gld Bond	125.3
Gold Bond	126.4
High Yield Bond	123.6
Int'l. Bond	125.7
Int'l. Bond	127.7
Int'l. Bond	129.4
Managed Bond	126.9
Property Bond	128.1
Recent Fund Bond	124.2
Flexible Fund	126.3
Personal Pensions	126.3
Flexible Pensions	126.3
American (Cap.)	124.0
Do. (Accrued)	126.1
Deposit (Accrued)	128.7
Entity (Cap)	126.8
Entity (Accrued)	124.2
Exempt Flex Cap	125.4
Exempt Flex Cap	126.0
Exempt Flex Cap	126.7
Exempt Equity Cap	127.5
Exempt Equity Acc.	122.9
Exempt Fed Int Cap	127.3
Exempt Fed Int Acc	121.3
Exempt Gld Cap Acc	126.4
Exempt Gld Cap Acc	127.3
*Addition to price when relevant mktg charges apply.	
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Gld Bond	125.3
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High Yield Bond	123.6
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Exempt Flex Cap	126.7
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Exempt Equity Acc.	122.9
Exempt Fed Int Cap	127.3
Exempt Fed Int Acc	121.3
Exempt Gld Cap Acc	126.4
Exempt Gld Cap Acc	127.3
*Addition to price when relevant mktg charges apply.	
<i>M & G Group</i>	
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Exempt Flex Cap	126.0
Exempt Flex Cap	126.7
Exempt Equity Cap	127.5
Exempt Equity Acc.	122.9
Exempt Fed Int Cap	127.3
Exempt Fed Int Acc	121.3
Exempt Gld Cap Acc	126.4
Exempt Gld Cap Acc	127.3
*Addition to price when relevant mktg charges apply.	
<i>M & G Group</i>	
Three Quays, Tower Hill, EC3R 6BQ	01-626 4588
American Fund Bond	121.7
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Exempt Equity Acc.	122.9
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Exempt Fed Int Acc	121.3
Exempt Gld Cap Acc	126.4
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Int'l. Bond	129.4
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Flexible Fund	126.3
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Exempt Equity Acc.	122.9
Exempt Fed Int Cap	127.3
Exempt Fed Int Acc	121.3
Exempt Gld Cap Acc	126.4
Exempt Gld Cap Acc	127.3
*Addition to price when relevant mktg charges apply.	
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Int'l. Bond	127.7
Int'l. Bond	129.4
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Recent Fund Bond	124.2
Flexible Fund	126.3
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Exempt Flex Cap	126.0
Exempt Flex Cap	126.7
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Exempt Equity Acc.	122.9
Exempt Fed Int Cap	127.3
Exempt Fed Int Acc	121.3
Exempt Gld Cap Acc	126.4
Exempt Gld Cap Acc	127.3
*Addition to price when relevant mktg charges apply.	
<i>M & G Group</i>	
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Exempt Equity Acc.	122.9
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Exempt Gld Cap Acc	126.4
Exempt Gld Cap Acc	127.3
*Addition to price when relevant mktg charges apply.	
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Exempt Flex Cap	126.0
Exempt Flex Cap	126.7
Exempt Equity Cap	127.5
Exempt Equity Acc.	122.9
Exempt Fed Int Cap	127.3
Exempt Fed Int Acc	121.3
Exempt Gld Cap Acc	126.

OFFSHORE AND OVERSEAS

International S.A.		M.U. 000 00, Guernsey	
G.D.		Capital Reserve Fund	17.33 17.34
117.27-0.23	7.43	U.S. Fund	366.4 366.4
Wednesday		United States Fund	11.10 11.10
		Starfire Income Fund	109.2 114.02
		Dollar Money Fund	51.032 110.07
		Trans. & Inv. Trust	51.146 1.297
		Intl. Bond	110.04 105.55
		Intl. Equity	51.150 22.05
		Int. Sys. "A" US\$	51.161 1.78
		Int. Sys. "B"	51.169 2.52
		Global Asx Fd	51.116 1.160
		Amer. Spec. Accs.	51.189 0.94
		Amer. Equity Inc.	47.5 50.0
			6.58
		Henderson Admin. & Mngt. (Guernsey)	
		P.O. Box 71, St. Peter Port, Guernsey 0481 26541	
		American (U.S. cents)	147.6 151.0
		Intl. Res. (U.S. cents)	126.7 134.0
		Gift Fund	£10.50 11.15
		Prime Res. Prop.	£0.99 1.05
		Henderson Baring Group	
		1901, Edinburgh Tower, Hongkong	
		Australia	£11.55 12.44
		Hong Kong	£12.01 12.87
		Japan Tech	£11.00 11.33
		Japan Fund	£11.30 11.15
		Malay Stop	£10.00 2.90
		Pacific Fd	£16.28 17.102
		Pacific Hl. Fd	£10.75 11.30
		Bond Fd	£10.579 11.212-0.92
		H.H. Samuel & Co. (Guernsey) Ltd.	
		8 Le Febvre St., St. Peter Port, Guernsey, C.I.	
		Guernsey Tz.	£0.25 334.3 -0.1
		Hill Samuel Investment Mgmt. Ltd.	
		P.O. Box 63, Jersey	0534 76029
		U.K. Equities (I.C. Fd.)	125.0 232.7
		U.K. Govt. Inv. Fd.	110.00 111.00
		Intl. Mkt. (Growth) Fd	122.24 194.5
		Int. Currency Fund	
		D. Mark	DM43.36
		E. Sterling	£11.56
		Suisse Franc	SF10.21
		Jap. Yen	¥11.56
		U.S. S.	\$23.15
		Managed Fund	£12.57 13.20
		Baz 2622, Seven, Switzerland	Total 33425
		H.S. Overseas Fd	£26.52 22.95
		Far East (Crossbow)	£92.27 24.55
		Far East (Crossbow)	£49.26 4.33
		Technology (ITF) Fd	£151.50 16.54
		HK Fund Managers (Jersey) Ltd.	
		Hongkong Bank Bldg., Grenville St., St. Helier, C.I.	
		HK Gift Fund Acc.	£1.23 1.28
		HK Gift Fund (Dist.)	£0.02 1.00 -0.01
		I.C. Trust Managers Ltd.	
		10, St. Georges St., Douglas, Isle of Man 0624 25015	
		Int. Commodities Tz.	£14.20 151.11
		Int. Equities	£1.20 1.11
		Next dealing May 15.	
		HSE Management Group	
		See adjacent page Mon-Fri and Stock Exchange Dealings page Sat.	
		N.V. Interfaseher	
		P.O. Box 85590, The Hague, Holland	
		Essoveral Offer Pco (NED) 3	-1.099 2.27
		International Bond Trust	
		2, Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg	
		CIS A NAV Feb 8.	£11.24 -1.05
		CIS B NAV Feb 8.	£11.75 -1.05
		Invicta Investment Management	
		29a Broad St., St. Helier, Jersey, C.I.	0534 77522
		Intl. Growth Fund	£14.34 15.81
		Intl. Income Fund	£9.51 9.80
		Intl. & Future Fund	£0.72 0.23
		HK Fund Managers (Jersey) Ltd.	
		Hongkong Bank Bldg., Grenville St., St. Helier, C.I.	
		HK Gift Fund Acc.	£1.23 1.28
		HK Gift Fund (Dist.)	£0.02 1.00 -0.01
		I.C. Trust Managers Ltd.	
		10, St. Georges St., Douglas, Isle of Man 0624 25015	
		Int. Commodities Tz.	£14.20 151.11
		Int. Equities	£1.20 1.11
		Next dealing May 15.	
		HSE Management Group	
		See adjacent page Mon-Fri and Stock Exchange Dealings page Sat.	
		N.V. Interfaseher	
		P.O. Box 85590, The Hague, Holland	
		Essoveral Offer Pco (NED) 3	-1.099 2.27
		International Bond Trust	
		2, Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg	
		CIS A NAV Feb 8.	£11.24 -1.05
		CIS B NAV Feb 8.	£11.75 -1.05
		Invicta Investment Management	
		29a Broad St., St. Helier, Jersey, C.I.	0534 77522
		Intl. Growth Fund	£14.34 15.81
		Intl. Income Fund	£9.51 9.80
		Intl. & Future Fund	£0.72 0.23
		Jardine Fleming & Co. Ltd.	
		44th Floor, Connaught Centre, Hong Kong	
		J.F. Int'l. Fd.	£14.58 4.71
		J.F. Int'l. Fund	£4.00 4.00
		J.F. Japen Sci. Cfd.	£26.66 26.600
		J.F. Japen Technology	£20.78 21.923
		J.F. Eastern Fd.	£605.51 104.27
		Do. (Accum.)	£605.51 104.27
		J. F. Pac. Secs. (Int.)	£6.19 6.64
		Do. (Accum.)	£6.19 6.64
		J. F. Int'l. Fd.	£6.55 7.00
		Do. (Accum.)	£6.55 7.00
		J. F. Sth. Asia Fd.	£59.05 33.00
		Do. (Accum.)	£53.03 33.00
		J. F. Phil.	£5.56
		Japan & Pacific Cfd.	£18.77 19.86
		Australia Tz.	£6.91 7.39
		NAF	£0.65
		Next dealing Feb 15.	
		London Agents: Rett. Flmrs. & Co Tz. 01-638 5858	
		Continued on adjacent page Mon-Fri and Stock Exchange Dealings page Sat.	
		Leopold Joseph & Sons (Guernsey)	
		Albert Hse, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, 0481 26548	
		L.J. & S. Currency Fund	
		Telecom Manager for latest prices.	
		Telephone Fd.	£11.90 13.10
		L.J. Sterling Fund	£17.41 17.42
		Kleinwort Benson Group	
		20, Fenchurch St., EC3	01-423 6000
		Greenway Inc.	£32.4 145.2
		Do. Accum.	£98.1 217.3
		K.E. Eurobond Inc.	£16.18 16.33
		K.B. Eurobond Fd. Acc.	£17.51 17.40
		K.B. Far East (Ges.)	£11.65 15.22
		K.B. Gilt Fund	£11.77 11.85
		K.B. Int'l. Fund	£19.82 20.21
		K.B. Japan Fund	£7.57 1.05
		K.B. Sterling Ass't Fd.	£16.43 16.63
		KB US Money Mkt Fd	£10.996 10.997
		Prochucash US Govt	£7.27 -0.26
		Strelit Services	£1.59 0.05
		Transatlantic Fd.	£56.90 -1.20
		Korea International Inst.	
		Fam! Mngt.: Korea Invest. Trust Co Ltd.	
		via Victoria da Costa Ltd, King William Street, London, EC4	
		NAV won 2,214.45. IDR value US\$10,233.49.	
		The Korea Trust	
		Man: Daeshan Investment Trust Co. Ltd.	
		2-516, Yeob-dong, Yangjae-gu, Seoul, Korea	
		NAV (Feb 4) won 11,764 (US\$14.77).	
		Lloyd's Bank (C.I.) LTD Migrs.	
		P.O. Box 153, St. Helier, Jersey	0534 27561
		Lloyd's Tls. Oper.	£150.7 156.6
		Net dealing February 16.	
		Lloyd's Trust Gilt	£10.52 10.25
		Net dealing February 15.	
		Lloyds Bank (International) Ltd.	
		P.O. Box 43, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland	
		See adjacent page Mon-Fri and Stock Exchange Dealings page Sat.	
		Lloyds Bank (International), Guernsey	
		P.O. Box 124, Guernsey, 0481 24983	
		Alexander Fund	£11.42 -1.05
		Net asset value.	
		Louis Dreyfus Commodity Fund	
		c/o Trustee, P.O. Box 1092, Cayman Islands	
		Jn 27, Valuation US\$5,266.85.	
		Lazard Brothers & Co. (Jersey) LTD	
		P.O. Box 106, St. Helier, Jersey, C.I.	0534 37361
		Laz. Bro. Int. Cap.	£11.01 11.54
		Laz. Bro. Int. Inv.	£12.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Acc.	£10.52 11.45
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Fd.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv. Fd.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv. Inv.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv. Inv. Fd.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv. Inv. Inv.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv. Inv. Inv. Fd.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Fd.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Fd.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Fd.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Fd.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Fd.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Inv. Fd.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv. Fd.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv.	£10.00 10.00
		Laz. Bro. Int. Ass't. Inv. Fd.	£10.00 10.00
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& Hawkes	172	-1
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158	112	Carr. Car Aut. 10p.	130
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183	138	Assoc. News	455
175	74	B.M.P. Hdg. 'A'	110
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924	542	Ad'l London 10p.	57
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290	184	Bilton (Perry)	222
226	220	Broadford Prop.	228
118	72	British Land	125
2374	2427	Brit. 12p. Cat. 2002	11.25
126	55	Brutton Estate	236d
37	92	Caparo Props.	32
179	130	Car. & Counties	177
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212	161	Cheshire Prop. 20p.	105
229	155	Chesterfield Est.	370
44	28	City Site Estates.	228
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157	95	Clarke Nickols.	540
265	210	Compo Hdg. 20p.	130
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73	52	Crown Prop. 10p.	205
240	120	Cradley Prop. Grp.	105
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265	15	Davies Estates 10p.	92.1
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16	19	Edmond Hdg. 10p.	12.5
96	60	Edspire-Tyco	16
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89	56	Ests. & Gen. 20p.	133
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74	54	Evans Leeds	151d
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50	17	HKL Hdg. HKSL2.5	474
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141	523	Hill. Inv. Prop. SU.01.01	611
110	75	Hermion Invest.	48
51	33	Kent (M.P.) 10p.	236
248	165	Lake Properties.	121.2
125	36	Land Invest.	39
225	197	Land Sec. E. 10p.	249
226	172	Land Lease 50c.	122
178	136	Lands & Gated Hdg.	148
222	132	Leeds & M&S 10p.	152
342	255	London Prop. 10p.	268
128	125	Lon. Shop Prop.	178
1193	1460	Lon. U.S. Cat. 1984.	5190
124	697	Lon. U.S. Cat. 1994-95.	1117
52	36	Lynton Hdg. 20p.	273
222	182	MPC.	250
225	186	Ramsdale 10p.	2
143	112	Markeaton 10p.	120
58	35	Marlborough 5p.	55
102	65	Marsden Estates.	1
66	52	McIlernary 10p.	54
140	97	Mervin Secs. 20p.	138d
122	41	Merton Secs. 5p.	122d
140	53	Mountleigh	220

TRUSTS, FINANCE, LAND

1963-64	High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or -	Dif.	Div.	CW
140	115	Aberdeen Trust	134	-	4	16		
76	57	Ailsa Inv.	73 rd	-	11.3	12		
		For Alliance Inv see						
532	378	Alliance Trust	503	-5	12.3	10		
16	80	Altairton Inc.	562	-1	7.5	10		
223	226	Do. Capital	362	-5	10.5	0.5		
250	240	Auto Investments	240	-5	7.8	0.9		
73	62	Ambrose Inv. Inc.	64	-				
174	93	Do. Cap.	166	-2				
104	76	American Trust	94	-1	2.35	11		
162	74	American Inv. 'B'	92	-1				
252	161	Anglo-Am. Sects.	224	+4	5.35	4		
582 ₂	47	Anglo-Int. Div.	59 ₂	-	5.9	10		
153	239	Do. Asset Sts.	446	-				
143	75	Anglo Scot. Inv.	129	-	2.6	10		
116	91	Archimedes Inc.	110	-	8.61	10		
73	61	Do. Cap. 50p	64	-				
-184	95	Asian Inv. (ASI)	178	-	0.13	11		
350	234	Asthdown Inv.	248	-	7.0	10		
377 ₂	23	Asset Special	36	-2	4.05	13		
147	105	Atlanta Inv. 10p	129	-	+1.1	10		
108	74	Atlantic Assets	85	-1	0.3	12		
234	104	Do. Gifford Japan	228	-4	0.1	14		
-17	104	Sanktiers Inv.	140	-	4.16	10		
150	97	Berry Trust	147 rd	+1	10.95	11		
157	110	Bischoffgate Tst.	151	-				
556	522	Border & Sons 10p	128	-1	3.15	10		
90	63 ₂	Brit. Am. & Gen.	86	-	2.6	10		
162	123	British Assets	147	-3	5.0	10		
304	16	Brit. Emp. Sects. 5%	28	-2	0.9	12		
260	138	Brit. Inv. & Gen. Div.	240 ₄	-	4.50	10		
288	216	Br. Inv. Invest.	280	-	10.6	12		
65	48	Brunther Inv.	61 rd	-1	1.23	10		
E10 ⁸	685	Caledonia Inv.	987	-13	115.5	10		
61	37	Cambrian and Gen.	58	-	0.85	9.5		
86	53	Do. Cap. 7 ² p	88	-1				
225	425	Camellia Inv. 10p	825	+5	17.0	7		
55	99	Cardinal Inv.	159	-1	3.65	11		
283	190	Chantl Is. Inc. El.	235	-	0.44%	4		
118	245	Do. Cap.	390	-6				
67	47	Charter Trust	61 rd	-	1.98	4		
270	145	Child Health El.	270	-				
33	33	City & Com. Inc.	35	-	15.21	16		
322	290	Do. Cap. (El.)	412	-				
168	73	City & For. Inv.	193	-	1.0	15		
172	122	City of Oxford	172	-	5.85	10		
57	322	Continent'l & Ind.	438	-5	15.3	10		
156	468	Cres. Inv. Japan 50p	742	-6	1.5	4		
260	126	Cystic Fibrosis El.	260	-				
554	382	Darcae (Inc.)	52	-	14.0	1.1		
71	54	Do. (Cap) 20p	71 ₄	-				
550	393	Derby Tst. Inc. El.	322 rd	-2	25.0	9		
177	363	Do. Cap. 50p	412	-				
362	217	Drayton Japan	368	-5	M3.0			
27	167	Drayton Cons.	269	-2	8.5	1.9		
79	73	Drayton Far East	115	-2	0.65	4		
45	32	Do. Warrants '62-61	41	-1				
228	212	Drayton Premier	314	-1	11.0	10		
671 ₂	571 ₂	Dualwest Inc. 50p.	63	-	17.88	10		
780	525	Do. Capital El.	765	-3				
124	124	Dunclife & Lons.	152	+2	4.35	10		
223	150	Edinburgh Am. Tst.	165	-	0.85	4		
62	37	Edinburgh Fin. Tst.	59	+2	6.6	14		
81 ₂	81 ₂	Edinburgh Inv.	95	-1	9.25	10		
97 ₂	44	EDITH	58	-	42.3	10		
68 ₂	68 ₂	Electra Inv. Tst.	96	-	13.3	11		
239	133	Electra. & Gen.	254	-	3.1	12		
100	259	Eng. Res. & Gen. 5%	425	-	0.15	4		
24	114	Eng. & Gen. Inv. (P.L.)	123	-	0.47%	6		
208	122	Eng. & Internat'l	202	-	6.0	10		
57	57	Eng. & N.Y. Trust	77	-1	2.3	4		
29	73	Eng. & Scott. Inv.	127	-1	2.0	10		
160	162	Equity Const'l El.	182	-2	19.71	10		
48	289	Do. Do'd 50p	336	-3	-11.03	11		
23	97	Empirestate 4.5% L.	123	+2	52.09	10		
81	55	F. & C. Advance Inv.	77	+1	10.55	10		
37 ₂	22	F. & C. Ect. Tst. 10p.	54 ₂	+2	90.09	4		

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MINES—continued

MAN IN THE NEWS

Lebanon's reluctant rebel

BY PATRICK COCKBURN

MR NABIH BERRI, leader of last Monday's insurrection in West Beirut which precipitated the withdrawal of U.S. marines from Lebanon, looks almost surprised at the speed of his own success.

He is now in control of two-thirds of the Lebanese capital, and has secured his position as the leader of the Shi'ite Moslems, the largest community in Lebanon.

The Government of President Gemayel and his 3,000 strong army have so far been unable to mount a counter attack. Indications yesterday were that they would not do so. Berri as President of the Shi'ite Amal movement, is now the most powerful man in Lebanon but he needs to fill the political vacuum which the collapse of government authority has produced.

Berri is a far more reluctant rebel than Mr Walid Jumblatt, the Druze leader. For almost 18 months he looked for social and political reforms from President Gemayel's Government. He has always sought to reform rather than destroy the tattered public of the Lebanese state. In many ways he is a more modern figure than the other warlords and hereditary leaders, who dominated Lebanon politics.

A lawyer in his early 40s, he became leader of the populist Amal movement in 1978, taking over from Imam Mousa Sadr who had mysteriously disappeared during a visit to Libya. The Shi'ite, though numerous, were the worst represented of major Lebanese communities. Very poor, for long



Nabil Berri

ruled by traditional families and without a strong militia, the Shi'ite suffered badly in Lebanon throughout the 70s.

In their stronghold in South Lebanon, and South Beirut, they were hit by Israeli raids and the 1975-76 civil war. In these areas and in the Bekaa Valley to the east, there were few government services, schools, or adequate roads. Although Berri was able to build up Amal it was not a very potent force until the trauma of the Israeli invasion of 1982.

Berri hoped that a new deal could be obtained for his co-religionists but despite a certain amount of rhetoric about reforms, President Gemayel would have none of it. Berri's moderation led to a decline of his influence and a growth of the influence of Iran and the ideology of a revolutionary Islam.

His growing militancy during the last few months was forced on him by the Government and by his own men. He could not obtain the political and social concessions he wanted. The breaking point came when the independent Shi'ite enclave of South Beirut was shelled last week. He moved decisively into opposition to President Gemayel causing the resignation of the Government, the defection of part of the army and the takeover of West Beirut.

Nabil Berri remains very much a moderate seeking to re-build and modernise the state. But his triumph is that of a sectarian military leader. His moderation has yet to pay dividends. Amal and the Shi'ite have won their present position because of their military strength.

Wearing a suit and tie in his crowded office, Mr Berri contrasts with the heavily armed militia men who surround him. He has kept them under control but unless he can reach a modus vivendi with his opponents, his control over events will begin to slip. He cannot turn the Lebanon into a nation state but he is probably Lebanon's best hope that its heavily armed sectarian mini states will one day co-exist in peace.

Reagan's Lebanon aims questioned

BY STEWART FLEMING IN WASHINGTON AND PATRICK COCKBURN IN BEIRUT

THE REAGAN administration faces deepening disillusion in Congress about the apparent confusion among U.S. policy-makers over Lebanon. Critics of the administration say it seems uncertain about its ultimate goals for Lebanon and how to achieve them.

Some congressional leaders have made clear they feel cheated by the way the Administration is carrying out the withdrawal of the marines from Beirut. Congressmen had hoped the withdrawal would take place rapidly and not over the three to four months some officials have suggested could be the case.

They are also deeply suspi-

cious about the Administration's extensive use of naval firepower off the Lebanese coast. Mr "Tip" O'Neill, the Democrat speaker of the House of Representatives who has been moving from his position last year of supporting the President, has bluntly told the Administration that the U.S. shelling to support the bombardment of Beirut was "absolutely not" within the authority which Congress granted the President last year under the War Powers Act. This authority had only covered "ensuring the safety" of U.S. troops.

The Administration has been sending out conflicting signals about the purpose of the shelling of positions inside Syrian-

controlled parts of Lebanon and about its plans for withdrawing the marines.

One official suggested the shelling was designed to support the Lebanese army and the Government of President Amin Gemayel as well as to put pressure on the Syrian Government to stop intimidating the various Lebanese factions.

In an effort to head off criticism that the War Powers Act does not authorise the sort of military activity it is employing, the White House has stressed that the shelling has been designed to protect U.S. and European military personnel in the greater Beirut area.

But senior officials have con-

firmed that they could be facing the prospect of Syrian domination of the Lebanon. Their determination to resist this, but their evident uncertainty about the best method to employ, may help to explain the confusion.

The Administration has stressed that one reason why the redeployment of the marines is to be phased over several weeks, is that it is anxious to avoid the appearance of "cutting and running."

More than 450 British, U.S. and other foreign residents were evacuated from Beirut yesterday as fighting continued along the "Green Line" which separates the Christian and Moslem halves of the city.

Overseas buying lifts TI shares

BY RAY MAUGHAN

HEAVY overseas buying of shares in TI Group, one of Britain's leading engineering companies, pushed the price up 14p yesterday to 218p, a peak for this year and last. Stockbrokers calculated that at least 5 per cent of the equity had been acquired by an overseas buyer.

A block of more than 3m shares was purchased "out of the market" in the past few days at a price thought to be 210p a share. TI has a Stock Exchange valuation of almost £130m.

Under UK company law, the holder of a 5 per cent interest

would be obliged to disclose its holding next week. General Electric of the U.S., at one time believed in the market to be the purchaser, was quick to deny that it had any TI stake.

TI has risen 4p on balance this week, despite dropping to 204p on Monday, during a period when the FT Industrial Ordinary Index, of which the group is a constituent, fell 3.3 per cent.

Brokers believe part of the rise can be explained by TI's improving prospects. The group lost £33.1m in 1981 and made pre-tax profits of just £3.7m the following year. It is expected that TI has achieved some £16m

in 1983 and predictions for the current year range between £23m and £32m.

The upturn stems from the sale of British Aluminium and a half stake in Round Oak Steel Works, the merger of its seamless pipe and the cold drawn steel tube activities with those of the British Steel Corporation, a return to profits in the machine tool division, and the standstill of losses incurred by the Raleigh bicycle subsidiary.

In addition, in its Creda, Russell Hobbs, and New World brands, the group has one of the most consistently profitable durables businesses in Europe.

Citicorp over Tokyo hurdle

By David Lascalle in Tokyo
JAPAN'S Ministry of Finance last night decided not to block Citicorp's proposed purchase of part of Vickers da Costa, the London stockbroking firm which holds one of the few licences granted to foreigners to do securities business in Tokyo.

The U.S. bank is now expected to proceed with a £20m deal to acquire 29.8 per cent of Vickers' London business (the maximum allowed by the London Stock Exchange) and the firm's entire Far East business.

The Japanese decision was made known to Vickers and Citicorp by the ministry which is responsible for regulating the securities and banking industries in Japan.

The deal poses problems for Japan, where banks are not allowed to enter the securities business. The ministry appears to have been satisfied that Citicorp's holding company structure would enable Vickers to be kept separate from Citibank, the group's banking subsidiary.

Tokyo is under pressure from the Reagan Administration to ease U.S.-Japanese trade friction by granting U.S. financial institutions easier access to the Japanese market. Thus the Vickers deal was something of a political test.

Morgan Guaranty in Japanese venture, Page 23

The deal had been reached on most of the conditions set by the IMF for a three-year extended credit which could exceed \$3bn. HU added that outright devaulation of the naira remained a problem.

A downward float might be possible, although Dr Soleye rejected a target of parity with the dollar, some 30 per cent below the naira's current value of \$1.33.

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Yamani backs Nigeria's oil case

BY QUENTIN PEEL, AFRICA EDITOR

SHEIKH Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi Oil Minister, has lent support in Lagos to Nigeria's case for an oil production quota above the level of 1.3m barrels a day fixed by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Major Gen Muhammad Buhari, the country's head of state and former Petroleum Minister, has already stated his intention of seeking an increased quota.

His backing came as Dr Ona Soleye, Finance Minister in Nigeria's military Government, again ruled out "straighforward devaulation" of the naira as a condition for a loan of some \$8bn from the International Monetary Fund. Dr Soleye was speaking as he left for a

new round of negotiations with the IMF in Washington.

Sheikh Yamani was reported as saying of the oil quota: "Nigeria should have special treatment for obvious reasons."

Dr Soleye said agreement in principle had been reached with British, French and West German export credit agencies to refinance arrears they had

insured over a period of six years. Officials said no accord had yet been reached on exact terms and conditions.

The Minister also said agree-

ment had been reached on most of the conditions set by the IMF for a three-year extended credit which could exceed \$3bn.

HU added that outright devaulation of the naira remained a problem.

A downward float might be

Wall Street reflects on 'a very bad week'

BY JOHN MAKINSON IN NEW YORK

THE New York stock market has barely opened and Mr Jeffrey Weingarten, the senior securities analyst at Goldman, Sachs, is already puffing heavily on an enormous cigar. "In a bad week," he says, "I start on these things at 7.30 am." For Wall Street this has been a very bad week indeed.

At the end of last year, as New York's securities firms pushed out their strategy documents for 1984, the consensus was that the equity market would start the year well, encouraged by the evidence of rising corporate profits and stable, if not falling, interest rates.

Later in 1984, they conceded, a slowing economy and worries about the November presidential election might partly the gains. Hardly anyone, however, was expecting a crunch to come so soon.

By the end of January the

market may be telling them nothing at all," Mr Metz says.

The bewilderment at the suddenness of the turn is almost total. Recent statements by Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, emphasising the threat posed by the U.S. budget deficit to economic activity and the dollar have certainly contributed to the shift.

The bond market, however, has not responded to his remarks with anything like the ferocity of the equity market.

Mr Jim Davin, a managing director of First Boston Corporation, says the market's mood is one of anger and fear. Investors are angry that they failed to see the fall coming.

Very few people, he believes, were on the right side at the right time. Now they are looking back over the market charts supplied by a host of independent advisers and kicking them-

selves for failing to spot the changing trend.

"A lot of investors I speak to are saying they ignored the disciplines learnt during a lifetime in the business. This weekend they will go home clutching their charts," Mr Davin says.

Everyone is afraid of what will happen next. Mr Metz is optimistic that the market will make a sustainable turn early next week and the view that equities will carry on upwards after this shake-out is still widely held.

Yet many on Wall Street, pointing to the danger of a fresh recession late next year, say they have given up hope of a significant recovery.

No matter where the market goes next week, the memory of the past few days will not easily be erased.

Wall Street's anxious message.

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Shipyards

Continued from Page 1

agreement to acquire the yard from the state shipbuilder, but the Government said on Thursday that it was still open to other offers.

The situation is particularly confused in the warship yards. At Vosper, mass meetings at which 5,000 workers had been expected to accept a deal in principle were cancelled yesterday because of a last-minute revolt against the deal by 1,000 boilermakers.

Manual workers at Vickers and Yarrow had rejected deals earlier this week in the hope that the entire warship division would reject them. But the small warship engineering company of Barclay Curle in Glas-

gow has reached a local agreement to acquire the yard from the state shipbuilder, but the Government said on Thursday that it was still open to other offers.

The picture in the merchant yards was incomplete as meetings continued into the evening, but deals were reached at Appledore Shipbuilders in North Devon and Ferguson Alliss in Glasgow.

At Smith's Dock, 1,000 workers reached agreement, but 600 boilermakers refused to sign. The 1,500 manual workers at Austin and Pickersgill threw out flexibility proposals by three to one.

At Cammell Laird—the future of which is in doubt—some sections of the workforce were reported to have rejected the management's plans and others to have accepted them.

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY
(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

RISES

Erch 12% '83-'84	£1204 + 8
Aero Needles	88 + 10
Applied Computer	610 + 25
Brit Printing	156 + 8
CML Microsystems	New 200 + 17
Cable & Wireless	317 + 15
Cornell	290 + 13
Grand Metropolitan	343 + 10
Gratton	52 + 6
Lorlou	136 + 6
Milbury	90 + 11
Phoenix Assurance	450 + 10
Porter Chadburn	95 + 21
Quick (H. & J.)	55 + 3

FALLS

Aerospace Eng	50 - 5
Beecham	295 - 8
Munford & White	150 - 10
Stylo	270 - 38
Atlantic Resources	540 - 20

WORLDWIDE WEATHER